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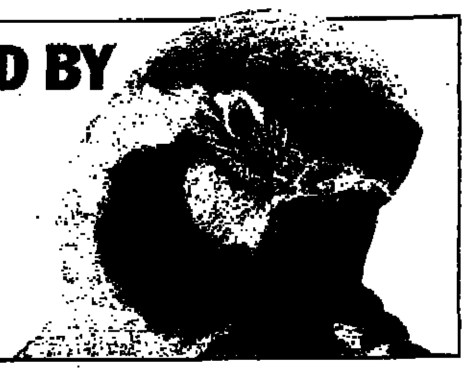

TRAPPED BY GRANTS

What greedy museums can learn from the zoo

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NIGELLA LAWSON

on why the two fat ladies aren't bad for your health

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Spending on NHS will be capped

By Jill Sherman, chief political correspondent

SPENDING on the National Health Service will be strictly capped for the first time under proposals announced yesterday to give GPs overall control of the £35 billion health budget.

GPs will take over responsibility for spending on hospital and primary care but if they overshoot on one item — such as drugs — they will have to cut other services. At the moment, GPs have an open-ended drugs budget and if they overspend they can call on the Treasury for more money — a practice that successive Tory administrations tried to overturn.

The new regime was announced as Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary unveiled a White Paper designed to create a modern health service that is the envy of the world and to break down the "Berlin Wall" between health and social care.

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Peter Riddell ....Page 11
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To do that, he intended to abolish the NHS internal market, phase out GP fundholding and set up a 24-hour patients' helpline that can be used as an alternative to the 999 emergency service.

He also promised that anyone with suspected cancer would see a specialist within two weeks and that a new institution would set national clinical standards of excellence. The White Paper, *The new NHS — Modern, Dependable*, also envisages savings of £1 billion through cutting red tape.

The most radical proposal, however, was for the NHS budget to be transferred to groups of GPs and community nurses, who would be able to buy most hospital and community care for their patients — including emergency care.

Groups of practices, representing about 100,000 people and comprising up to 50 GPs, would be given cash-limited "envelopes" to cover hospital and community care, prescriptions and surgeries.

Legislation would be introduced to allow these groups to set up as freestanding Primary Care Trusts, which would effectively run the NHS from 1999. The move will put doctors and nurses into the driving seat but will also mean that they will have to take on much more adminstration.

Some GPs were baffled as to how 50 doctors would be able to decide how to spend their budget.

The proposals, described in a foreword by the Prime Minister as making the NHS "a beacon to the world", were attacked by doctors' representatives who feared that GPs would be blamed for cash shortages.

John Chisholm, chairman of the British Medical Association GPs' Committee, said that there was no mention of new resources. "Devolution might be used as a smokescreen to conceal underfunding. GPs could end up being given the influence they have been seeking but becoming the fall guys."

Ministers argue that the changes will remove competition and stop NHS trusts pitting themselves against each other. Legislation will be introduced to make it a statutory requirement for health authorities to consult with hospital doctors, GPs and socials services before drawing up three-year "rolling agreements". Health authorities will have less influence and are expected to dwindle in number.

In his Commons statement, Mr Dobson said that patients would get "swift access to care and treatment rather than being passed from pillar to post".

He added: "We will keep the separation between planning and providing services. But we will end competition and replace it with a new statutory duty of partnership so that local health services pull together rather than pull apart".

In the next four years, the changes would "shift an extra £1 billion from bureaucracy into frontline patient services."

John Maples, Shadow Health Secretary, said that the Government's policy objectives were the same as the Tories', but he said the White Paper showed a "touching old Labour faith in co-operation and goodwill". He said that the success of the changes would depend on how much power individual GPs had to balance clinical freedom with financial responsibility.

[illegible] off leaving its crew behind

The helium-filled balloon floats over the Moroccan desert as a stunned Richard Branson and his son Sam watch. The balloon broke free from its moorings after strong winds

Jets may have to shoot down Virgin Challenger

From Andrew Pierce
in Marrakesh

FIGHTER jets were preparing last night to shoot down Richard Branson's runaway balloon after it soared 60,000 ft over the Atlas mountains, zig-zagging in and out of Morocco and Algeria, with a Virgin Lear jet in pursuit.

The military aircraft will be ready to take off this morning, but the world's biggest balloon was dropping a thousand feet a minute last night, raising hopes that it would find its own way back to earth.

If it does, the Virgin crew intend to swoop before dawn to try to salvage the balloon before the sun can reheat the helium and send it upwards again. In that case, Virgin engineers say that the envelope — a million cubic metres of fabric weighing four tons — could float uninterrupted for three days, posing a serious risk to other aircraft.

Mr Branson, who had pleaded with the Algerian authorities not to turn their fire on the Virgin Challenger on its ill-fated maiden voyage in January, found himself in a completely different position. He said: "I'm now in the bizarre position of trying to persuade the Algerians, if necessary, to shoot it down."

The chase across the North African skies started after the balloon broke free from its launch pad moorings after unexpectedly strong thermic winds, generated by the blazing mid-morning heat, lifted the envelope. The pressure proved too great, the mooring ropes snapped, and within an hour the balloon was doing 50 knots and had climbed to 25,000 ft. Mr Branson's dream of being the first person to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon appeared to be over.

Only on Monday, he had said that he was convinced that one of the five crews fighting to achieve the record would be successful this time. The Virgin crew were hoping last night that they would be able to retrieve the balloon, patch up any damage and relaunch later this month for yet another assault on the elusive record. But the time it could take to repair the envelope and prepare for take-off again could give rivals the edge.

Yesterday the Virgin team dispatched a Lear jet to track the balloon's progress as it raced over the snow-peaked

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Irvine makes Blair friend his adviser

By Richard Ford and James Landale

LORD IRVINE of Lairg yesterday became the first Lord Chancellor to have a special policy adviser when he appointed a close friend of the Prime Minister. Garry Hart, one of the country's leading planning solicitors, is to join the Lord Chancellor's Department in March.

Mr Hart, aged 57, currently senior planning partner at Herbert Smith, a leading firm of London solicitors, will make a substantial financial sacrifice to join his old friend Lord Irvine. His salary will be £73,484 compared with an estimated £350,000 at present.

A spokesman at the Lord Chancellor's department said that the post was five days a week and was for an indefinite term. "Mr Hart will assist and advise the Lord Chancellor in the development and effective presentation of policy.

"In providing a channel of communication in the areas of policy analysis and advice and the presentation of policies and achievements, Mr Hart will have a role in support of the government interests with a degree of party political association which would not be appropriate for civil servants".

The announcement comes after the Lord Chancellor has faced criticism over a £650,000 refurbishment of his official residence using wallpaper that cost almost £60,000 and ridicule after he jokingly compared himself as Cardinal Wolsey.

There have been bruising encounters with other Ministers and unhappiness at his brusque manner in the department and Parliament.

It was made clear that Mr Hart, a close friend of the Blairs, who is believed to be

Continued on page 2, col 4

Cambridge win

Cambridge recorded their fourth consecutive victory in the 116th University Match, beating Oxford 29-17. New Zealand's Paul Surridge scored 14 of Cambridge's points with a try, penalty and three conversions...... Page 48

Toyota blow

Toyota will build a new £400 million plant in the northern French city of Valenciennes. The decision destroyed hopes for an extension of the plant in Burnaston, Derbyshire... Page 7

Britannia may end her days on a canal

By Shirley English and Alan Hamilton

THE Royal Yacht *Britannia* may sail into a less dignified retirement than the Queen would wish, with a permanent berth on the Manchester Ship Canal or at Leith Docks near Edinburgh.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, is expected to announce in the Commons today that eight serious bids for the 44-year-old vessel have been reduced to two. In either case, Britain's elegant floating ambassador will become a tourist attraction.

Ministers have ruled out proposals from groups bidding to have *Britannia* moored in the Pool of London, by the Millennium Dome at Greenwich, Canary Wharf on the Thames, Hartlepool, in her home port of Portsmouth, or on the Clyde where she has built. The Government has decided not to scrap the vessel, despite a remark by the Princess Royal while on board last week that she — and by implication the Queen — would prefer to see it scuttled.

The bid by the Manchester Ship Canal Company would transform the yacht into a floating stately home and the centrepiece of a £40 million heritage park at Barton, near a £600 million shopping and entertainment complex at Dumplington.

If the bid by Forth Ports succeeds, *Britannia* will find a home in a planned £50 million development of Edinburgh's docklands that will include a luxury ocean liner terminal, leisure facilities and shopping. The vessel itself would become a visitor attraction with conference and banqueting facilities.

The Queen will attend the final decommissioning ceremony of *Britannia* in Portsmouth tomorrow.

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Fearsome reputation ends up in the bargain basement

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

THERE is an old *Punch* joke about a sign at a zoo: "WARNING: if attacked, this animal defends itself". Over in that noble zoo they call the House of Lords, this should hang from the bars of Lord Williams of Mostyn's cage — as Lord Tebbit found to his cost yesterday.

Admire or detest him (this sketch admires), Norman Tebbit is one of the wriest and most mordant men in British politics. And there is something wonderfully destructive in his soul.

It is said of Tebbit's first lessons in game-shooting that the instructor would shout "Fire!" but the young Norman kept missing the bird. But when they tried shouting "Kill!", Tebbit bagged the bird first time.

Yesterday in the Lords, he had Lord Williams in his sights.

A small, mild-mannered peer, Williams of Mostyn is nevertheless a shrewd and senior Labour spokesman: so senior that one Fleet Street gossip column mentioned his name in connection with the Lord Chancellor's job, should there be an unexpected vacancy.

But Lord Irvine of Lairg shows no signs of going, so Lord Tebbit began his question to Lord Williams yesterday with sarcastic felicitations to Williams (whose "charm" he praised) on the rumoured good news, which he said he hoped was true. Mostyn remained impassive.

Then Tebbit went onto the attack. He had asked the Government about the "scope" of "the work of the Ministerial Group on the Family". "In these days, when the Government is going to have no more secrets," he sneered, "why, despite a number of written questions, are they unable to explain their definition of the family?"

Tebbit's purpose was clear: he has been a persistent critic of progressive notions in a sexually permissive age. He had come to the House of Lords to torment the Labour front bench on the subject.

Lord Williams began with a straight bat. The Government, he said, did not "seek to prescribe how people live their lives".

He was critical of those he had heard aptly described in a quote he had read: people "who cannot imagine that what does not accord with their own ephemeral prejudice could be popular or morally defensible".

Lord Williams paused. That quote, he said, came from a book by Lord Tebbit. He had bought it in a second-hand bookshop in Moreton-in-Marsh. The book was priced by its publishers at £13.99 — *UK only* — "that's to stop those nasty foreign people reading it". Their lordships began to giggle.

But Lord Williams had not finished. The book had been repriced, he revealed, "at £3.50". Then it had been reduced to £2. The final reduction was to £1. "I bought it for 50 pence."

The biter bit, Lord Tebbit did not come back for a second bite. We moved to the next question, from Lord Carver. This former Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal and distinguished military historian, attacked Labour's nuclear defence policy from the *Left*. All the old familiar landmarks of British politics seem to be shifting.

But wait! As I write, Tony Blair is announcing that he will make our NHS "a beacon to the world". Such modesty! We all know that it is Mr Blair himself who is the beacon. Now he is to share beaconhood with the NHS.

Only last October, he promised to make the whole country a beacon to the world. Already we are a beacon to Europe. Is the latest a regular beacon, a New beacon or a People's beacon? How many beacons can we take?

This is getting confusing. Next time Mr Blair feels a beacon coming on, could we suggest a couple of aspirins and a darkened room?

Blair heads for showdown over euro committee

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner

TONY BLAIR was heading for his first serious confrontation in Europe last night after insisting that Britain must have a seat on a powerful new committee that will run the single currency.

The Prime Minister maintains that Britain should attend the Euro-X committee as a matter of course and be a participant, not an observer. Only in exceptional circumstances would it not attend.

In what was turning into a head-on clash with the French Government, which is leading the opposition to Britain's membership of the committee, Mr Blair was ringing round his fellow EU leaders warning that he would not allow Britain to be frozen out of key economic decisions. He was preparing to make a direct appeal to Chancellor Kohl of Germany to back Britain on an issue over which Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was rebuffed last week.

During a one-hour meeting at Downing Street with Jean-Claude Juncker, the Luxembourg Prime Minister, Mr Blair accepted that there would be rare occasions when the countries outside the single currency would not be able to attend the committee, notably when the "ins" were discussing the exchange rate policy of an "out" currency which was due to join.

This was being seen as a concession by Mr Blair that might eventually contribute to a solution at the summit that begins in Luxembourg on Friday. In fact, he was giving away little because the Maastricht treaty already precludes the "out" countries from participating in exchange rate policy decisions by the "ins".

Mr Blair is clearly ready to take on the French. He and Mr Brown were furious last week over the attitude of Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister who suggested that the euro would be a private "marriage" in which outsiders would not be welcome.

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, kept up the firm line yesterday, saying that if Britain was not a member of the "ins" club it should not expect a seat at the table. "The rules have yet to be defined. But the UK, which invented clubs, should not complain at being excluded."

Mr Blair insisted yesterday that Ecofin — the council of finance ministers — must remain the main decision making body on economic and financial matters. The Euro-X group would discuss many matters, such as employment policy, structural reform and labour market flexibility, in all of which Britain and the other "out" countries would want a proper say.

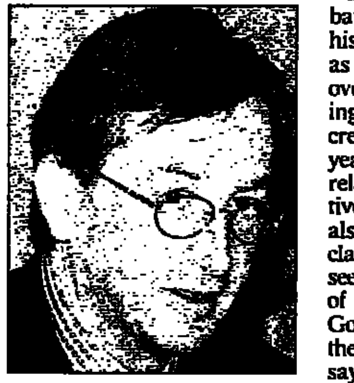
Mr Blair's offical spokesman said: "We want the expectation to be that we should be in all these discussions not as observers but as participants. We want that to be the rule not the exception. Others want it the other way round."

Unless Mr Blair has already won a private assurance of support from Herr Kohl, which is unlikely, it appeared last night that he was facing a bruising summit. Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister and an influential figure at the summit, staked out his resistance to British participation in the planned Euro-X council. "If Britain doesn't want to have full participation in the euro from the beginning, then they should respect other's rights to have their own internal consultations."

Diplomats in Brussels are convinced that the usual summit chemistry will prevail, allowing the euro council to go ahead with formal EU blessing, while giving some role to Britain, Sweden, Denmark and Greece, the likely non-participants in the single currency. Goran Persson, the Swedish Prime Minister, said in Paris he thought a compromise deal was possible.

Pierre Moscovici, the abrasive French European Affairs Minister, said: "We want to do all we can to find an agreement, but there are limits . . . there should be no confusion between the euro council and the Ecofin."

Diplomats believe that it is unlikely that Mr Blair will want to pursue the Euro-X battle to the point of a crisis in his relations with the EU, just as the Government is taking over the presidency and working hard to establish Euro credentials for Britain after years of hostile cross-Channel relations under the Conservatives. Some Commission officials, annoyed by Mr Blair's claims to be leading Europe, see the quarrel as an example of the "naivety" of the new Government. "They think all they have to do is smile and say nice things and they will be welcomed with open arms," a German EU official said.



Juncker: hour of talks in Downing Street

Lord Irvine and Garry Hart, the special adviser who will join him next year

Soccer fan who scored with the Blair team

By James Landale and Richard Ford

MAN IN THE NEWS

AS A senior partner in one of London's leading law firms, Garry Hart is an unusual choice of special adviser to the Lord Chancellor.

While most ministerial advisers are young, ambitious apparatchiks who have known little else other than working for the Labour Party, Mr Hart, 57, has no direct experience of the political frontline.

But as a prominent Labour-supporting lawyer who lives in Islington, North London, and is a family friend of Tony Blair, he is ideally suited. Like many in the Labour Government, he is also obsessed with soccer and an ardent fan of Ipswich FC. Mr Hart is from the town and was educated at its grammar school.

He is a senior partner with Herbert Smith, a position he will give up when he takes up his new post in March. He has known Lord Irvine of Lairg, both socially and professionally, for years. As one of the major London solicitors firms, Herbert Smith, has briefed 11 Kings Bench Walk, the chambers headed by Lord Irvine until he entered government last May.

Although he has kept his political views largely private, Mr Hart has for some time been a member of the "1,000 Club" of Labour supporters who donate at least £1,000-a-year to the party, according to a source at Herbert Smith.

Mr Hart also has close links with other members of new Labour's "Islington mafia". His neighbour in one of the borough's smartest streets is Lord Falconer of Thoroton, QC, the Solicitor-General.

Mr Hart joined Herbert Smith as an articled clerk after graduating in law from University College in London. He has been a partner with the firm since 1971 and head of the property and planning department from 1988 until earlier this year.

His first marriage, from which he has three children, ended in divorce in 1986 after 20 years. In the same year he married Valerie Davies, by whom he has twin daughters. His second wife is also a solicitor and is head of the insolvency litigation department with Norton Rose, another major London law firm. They have a hill farm in Wales where they keep sheep and spend weekends away from London.

He is a freeman of the City of London, trustee of the Architecture Foundation and is currently chairman of the Trustees of the Almeida Theatre in Islington. He is also a member of the Law Society specialist planning panel and a governor of the Anglo-American Real Property Institute. A member of the Reform Club, he lists farming and travel as his recreations.

A source at Herbert Smith said: "Garry is a very young 57. He is a larger than life character, a great raconteur who is often asked to give after dinner speeches. He is very convivial but very switched on with a lot of nous."

Robinson accused of neglecting his duties

By Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the multimillionaire Paymaster General, was accused last night of neglecting his ministerial duties because of his "obsession" with clearing his name.

Conservatives rounded on Mr Robinson after he put in a 20-minute appearance before the Commons standing committee considering the Government's Bank of England Bill.

The Paymaster General sat in silence at the meeting, even though the Treasury had earlier indicated that he would take an active role throughout the day. Instead Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, spoke for the Government.

After the meeting David Heathcoat-Amory, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury who appeared for the Opposition, accused Mr Robinson of avoiding awkward questions about his offshore financial interests. On Monday Mr Robinson threatened to sue *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer* for making "ill-informed and defamatory statements" about his financial affairs.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory said: "It seems to me that Mr Robinson is not discharging his functions as a Treasury minister. He is obsessed by his struggle to fend off further questions. It is very odd."

A Treasury spokesman said last night that Mr Robinson had appeared at the committee to support Ms Liddell. The spokesman said: "Helen Liddell had the detailed knowledge of the clauses under consideration. Geoffrey Robinson was there to support her. Often ministers deal with different sections of Bills at standing committees." Earlier the Treasury had said that Mr Robinson would spend the whole day at the committee meeting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP wants loans for libel suits

A Bill to turn the self-regulating Press Complaints Commission into a statutory body was given an unopposed first reading in the Commons, although it has no chance of becoming law. It was introduced by Anthony Steen, Tory MP for Totnes, who said that individuals should receive interest-free loans to pursue libel cases where the PCC thought there was a case, and that the ultimate deterrent for Editors who print "reckless and malicious" articles should be a one-day ban of their papers from sale.

Oxford places

Oxford University took fewer state school pupils than expected this year — 41.6 per cent of places compared with 43.6 per cent last year. Independent school students got 49.1 per cent of places, up on 47.5 per cent. Other places went to overseas students.

Benefit boost

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, urged 16 and 17-year-olds who are in dead-end jobs or unemployed to return to study, noting that this would allow their families to receive up to £40 extra a week in benefits.

Cancer test hope

Researchers yesterday launched a major screening trial of 56,000 volunteers to test for a bacterial infection common in 55 per cent of all stomach cancers. More than 6,000 stomach cancers diagnosed in Britain each year are linked to *Helicobacter pylori*.

Time for tea

Weekly tea auctions which have been held in London for the past 163 years are to be wound up next year due to the computerisation and globalisation of the industry. The auctions will be held fortnightly from February and will finally end in June.

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Irvine adviser

Continued from page 1

godfather to one of their children, would not be a political adviser. However, his skills in human relations and in handling people are expected to help smooth feathers ruffled by Lord Irvine, both among ministerial colleagues and officials.

John Underwood, a solicitor who has known Mr Hart for some years, said last night: "He is a very very imaginative lawyer with a good creative grasp and strategic vision. He is excellent in terms of human relations."

Mr Underwood said that Mr Hart had a "very civilised" view of the world, was a fanatical supporter of Ipswich Town football club and had once described himself as a "working class libertine".

Last night some peers claimed that the decision to decision was a clear signal that Downing Street wanted to put a halt to a string of damaging press reports.

One senior Tory peer said: "I supposed the Lord Chancellor needs someone like this to look after him. He is incapable of doing it by himself unlike his predecessor (Lord Mackay of Clashfern) who would not even have known what a special adviser was."

In recent weeks the Lord Chancellor has also shown his vulnerability in Government. He has admitted making a mistake on a point of law about whether the proposed incorporation of the European Bill of Human Rights would introduce a privacy law by the back door into Britain.

Life for Hindley justified by crime

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE horror of the Moors murders justified the Home Secretary's decision that Myra Hindley should die in prison, the High Court was told yesterday.

Hindley's confession ten years ago to two further killings justified the increase of the minimum term she must serve from 30 years to a "whole life", the court heard. David Pannick, QC, for the Home Secretary, said that in her confession Hindley admitted two "pitiless" killings that were "the culmination of a series of five murders in which she had been involved."

Hindley, 55, was not in court to hear Mr Pannick oppose her challenge to a series of decisions to impose a minimum term of a whole life for "retribution and deterrence". She is in Durham jail and has served 31 years of a sentence imposed at Chester Crown court in 1966 for the murders of Lesley Ann Downey, 10, and Edward Evans, aged 17.

The thirty-year tariff was imposed by Leon Brittan in 1985, two years before Hindley's confession, and it was increased to a whole life in 1990 by David Waddington. Edward Fitzgerald, QC, for Hindley, had said that it was unlawful for Mr Waddington to increase the tariff.

Mr Pannick said that parliament had "deliberately conferred a broad discretion on the Home Secretary.

The hearing continues.

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Andrew Pierce watches end of Virgin chief's latest attempt to capture his round-the-world dream

Branson sees balloon record hope drift away

RICHARD BRANSON was sitting in his hotel room in Marrakesh signing his will when the news came through that his renewed attempt to balloon around the world had been ended by a freak gust of wind which snapped the guy ropes and sent the helium-filled envelope drifting off without him.

A quick look out of the window confirmed the shattering news to the millionaire adventurer as he saw the silver-and-white balloon disappearing toward the Atlas Mountains.

Disaster struck while Mr Branson was making final preparations in his hotel suite, half a mile from the Moroccan launch site, only five hours before the scheduled lift-off.

Unexpectedly warm thermal currents of 14 knots lifted the one million cubic metre balloon when it was partially filled with four tonnes of helium. The effect was catastrophic. It lurched to the right and put intolerable strain on the 16 mooring ropes. One snapped. It sounded like a gunshot.

As panic set in project director Mike Kendrick shouted: "For God's sake. We are losing it. We are at crisis point."

As the 50 Virgin Challenger engineers desperately tried to stabilise the world's biggest balloon envelope, two more ropes snapped as the thermic wind lifted the envelope to the right. Two more ropes broke under the strain. It had a domino effect. One by one the 16 Kevlar fibre ropes parted under the pressure.

As the engineers raced for cover the majestic balloon, the product of ten years planning and design rocketed skywards like a cork out of a champagne bottle. It soared high over the Atlas Mountains while below on the ground the devastated members of the Virgin Challenger team broke down in tears. The 223 ft balloon, one and a half times the size of Nelson's Column, disappeared from view in 90 minutes.

Within an hour the wayward balloon had soared 25,000 ft into the air on a course for Algeria, which was the first country Mr Branson and his crew were to have crossed. Mr Kendrick telephoned Mr Branson, 47, who was preparing to leave his hotel to try to beat the world's last great aviation challenge.

He said: "Richard, the project is off for a bit. The balloon has gone."

Mr Branson, who was with his wife, Joan, his son Sam, 12, and daughter Holly, 16, thought it was a joke. He said: "I thought Mike was pulling my leg. I looked out of the hotel window and saw it was not a joke.

"I saw the balloon drifting away. I suspected straight away this was the end. The ballon had decided to make a run for it without us.

"It is an horrendous disappointment. The conditions had been perfect. But the balloon doesn't like being on the ground. One of the most dangerous times is during the inflation. We have to look on the bright side. Maybe fate has been kind to us. If we had taken off it could have been disastrous."

Moroccan air force jets based at the launch site by the imperial city of Marrakesh were put on alert. Air traffic controllers were warned that the balloon was floating out of control. The giant envelope represented the equivalent of four 747 airplanes on Moroccan radar screens.

The launch had been scheduled to take place at 4pm but the unscheduled take off happened at 11am in blazing sunshine as crowds of Moroccans gathered to witness the spectacular launch.

Per Lindstrand, 47, the pilot who designed and built the multi-million pound craft, was working in the one tonne capsule at the time. "I saw what I thought was a toy silver balloon drifting past the window. It looked horribly familiar. My stomach churned. I realised it was ours. We had taken a big gamble by inflating in the day. It was a gamble we lost."

They had hoped to inflate the balloon last night for a take-off at dawn today but the weathermen warned them that the jet streams, which were required to power the balloon were in danger of dying away. They decided to inflate yesterday morning. It was a fatal miscalculation. The thermic winds, which had expected to be no more than 5 knots an hour, reached 14 by mid morning. Within minutes of the balloon breaking free they had died away. Mr Branson had been in favour of a night time inflation, but was overruled by the weathermen.

The Virgin chief arrived at the air force base hand in hand with his children and was initially too choked to speak. As he addressed the Virgin Challenger team he became emotional and was forced to break off his short speech. But he was clapped and cheered when he declared: "We have to be positive. We can try again."

They were hoping yesterday that they could retreieve the £250,000 envelope, carry out repair work and try again next week or in January. But the calculations will depend on whether any of the competitors successfully complete the 20,000 mile voyage, across 70 countries in 18 days.

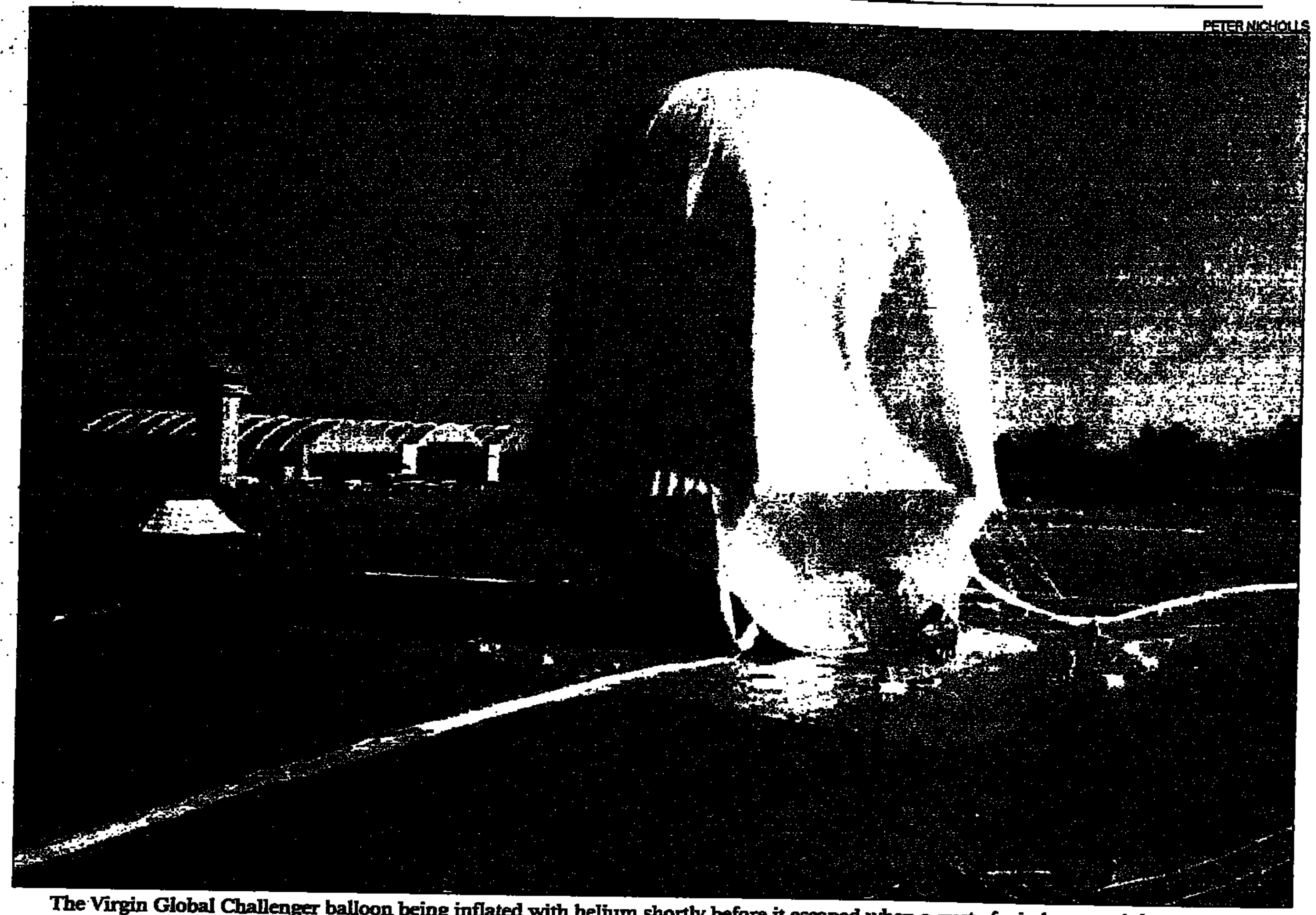
Mr Branson said he was sure that the record would go this year. "Sadly, it looks like it won't be me who breaks the record. It's bitter. But we are alive to fight another day. We will start building another envelope straight away. We will go again if the other teams are not successful. We are sorry for everybody who has been involved in this project. But at least I will be home for Christmas." Last January the Virgin Challenger had been flying for 19 hours when it ran into serious difficulties at night in Algeria when the helium, which was required to keep the balloon buoyant at night, cooled dramatically. The balloon crash-landed in the Algerian desert after only 23 hours having travelled only 400 miles.

☐ Four other teams are now vying for the chance to become the first to float around the world, with two of them hoping to take off within a week.

Mr Branson's old friend and rival Bertrand Piccard, a Swiss balloonist, is hoping to launch his second round the world bid next week, but it could be as long as late February depending on the wind conditions.

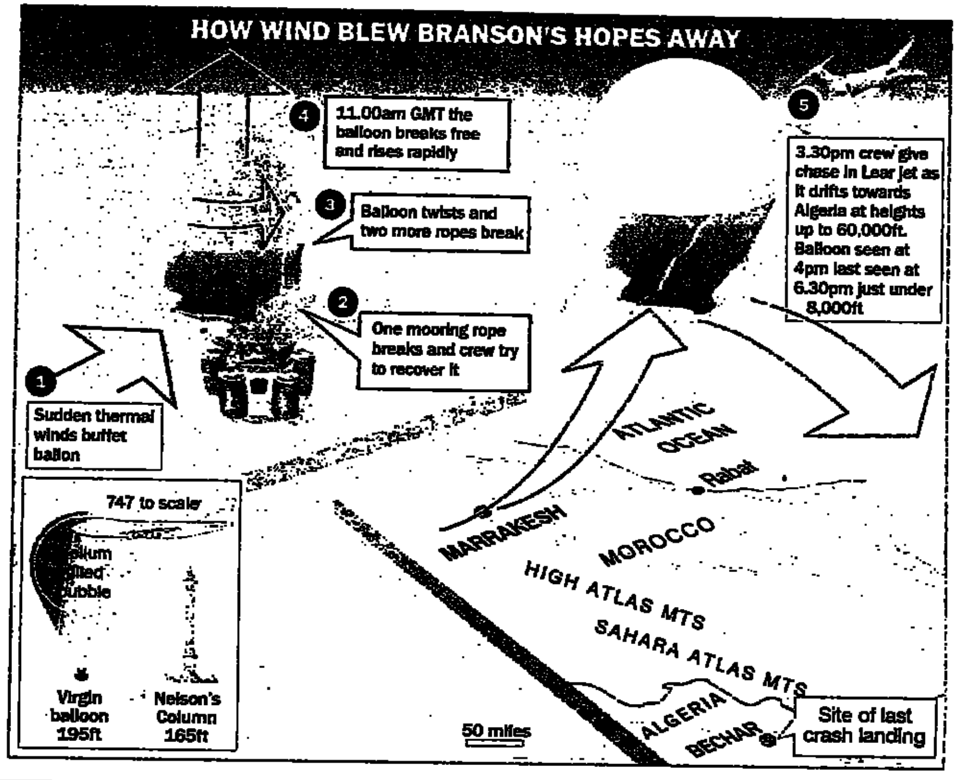
Three other balloonists are also hoping to claim the title. They are Kevin Ullassi, Steve Fossett and Dick Rutan.

Leading article, page 19


PETER NICHOLLS

The Virgin Global Challenger balloon being inflated with helium shortly before it escaped when a gust of wind snapped the guy ropes

Lindstrand: "We took a big gamble and we lost"


HOW WIND BLEW BRANSON'S HOPES AWAY
1
Sudden thermal winds buffet ballon
2
One mooring rope breaks and crew try to recover it
3
Balloon twists and two more ropes break
4
11.00am GMT the balloon breaks free and rises rapidly
5
3.30pm crew give chase in Lear jet as it drifts towards Algeria at heights up to 60,000ft. Balloon seen at 4pm last seen at 6.30pm just under 8,000ft
747 to scale
Helium filled bubble
Virgin balloon 195ft
Nelson's Column 165ft
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Rabat
MARRAKESH
MOROCCO
HIGH ATLAS MTS
SAHARA ATLAS MTS
ALGERIA
BECHAR
Site of last crash landing
50 miles

Balloon chase

Continued from page 1

mountains towards Algeria, covering 120 miles in five hours. A convoy of Bedouin Arabs were also reported to be following the silver balloon, which took on the appearance of a huge pink jellyfish against the light of the sinking sun. A Virgin official said: "With one million cubic metres of fabric, it would create a lot of tents. It could build a whole Bedouin city."

A Moroccan military helicopter also joined in the chase but had to abandon the flight because it could only reach 14,000 ft as the balloon hovered imperiously above 40,000 ft.

Mr Branson remained on the ground, however, saying that to have joine the pursuit would have involved "the longest and loneliest flight of my life". Despite his disappointment, the millionaire adventurer remained determinedly optimistic. "We will do it again," he insisted. "Only the next time I plan to be in the balloon."

As the sky turned a deep red at sunset, the balloon began its precipitous fall. The Lear jets passed within 400 ft and continued to follow it until it had fallen below 7,500 ft above the tiny Moroccan village of Tmaho in rugged and unforgiving mountainous terrain.

At the same time, Virgin engineers were making their way to the nearest large town, Quarzazate, to prepare for an early morning salvage expedition. Will Whitehorn, a corporate affairs director, said: "It's vital we get to it before the sun rises and it goes up again. I'm confident we can do it without having to resort to shooting it down."

Tmaho is only 50 miles from the spot where the Virgin copilot Alex Ritchie dumped a propane gas cylinder overboard after clambering on to the roof of the capsule shortly before it crash landed 23 hours into their flight last January. Mr Branson and his team then had to fly into Algeria to retrieve the Virgin balloon and capsule.

This time the balloon, which cost £250,000 to make, is insured for £100,000, but it was unclear last night whether the policy would pay out for damage inflicted by gunfire.

Star's son born with a rebel yell

By Joanna Bale

MICK JAGGER'S newborn son will almost certainly be brought up an Englishman, but his third name, Beauregard, will always be a reminder of his mother's Southern roots.

The 8lb 3oz boy, named Gabriel Luke Beauregard Jagger, was born in London early yesterday. Although his first name has obvious seasonal connotations, his Texan-born mother, Jerry Hall, is said to have been keen for him to have a Southern name. Beauregard is popular in America's South because of the confederate general Pierre Beauregard, who designed the famous "rebel flag", the strongest symbol of the Southern cause in the American Civil War. He is also famous for being the man who fired the first shots in the conflict, by ordering the bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbour in 1861.

Jagger, 54, who is on tour with the Rolling Stones in Atlanta, was not present at the birth. His spokesman, Fran Curtis, said that mother and baby were well and that Jagger "was clearly very excited". Jagger is expected home on Saturday.

He and Ms Hall, a model, have three other children: Elizabeth, 13, James, 11, and Georgia May, 5. Jagger also has two daughters, Karis and Jade, from previous relationships. He is grandfather to Jade's two children Assisi, 4 and Amber, 2. Jagger and Ms Hall, 41, married in 1990 after living together since the 1970s. Earlier this year she reportedly consulted the divorce lawyer Anthony Julius after Jagger was linked to a model and an actress.

Scientists enticed by rare jewel

By Terri Judd

A WOMAN who enjoys shopping for the unusual may have made a fortune after discovering a prehistoric fly trapped inside a £12 amber ring she bought at a fair. Biologists believe the insect is one of only eight members of its species recorded in amber worldwide.

Catherine White, 39, a divorced mother-of-two who is taking a six-year Open University science degree course, plans to sell the silver ring to help to finance her studies. She bought it while trinket-hunting at a natural medicine fair, and wore it for six weeks before taking it to experts at the University of Leeds.

After learning that it may be 40 million years old, Ms White, from Cottingley, West Yorkshire, said: "I thought it was old but I couldn't believe how old.

"It is quite spooky. If you hold the ring under a magnifying glass and shine a light on it, the fly's eye glows. You can even see its tiny beard and hunch back."

David Blakeley, a biologist at the university, is convinced that the fly is a member of the *Heleomyzidae* family, but plans to send it to experts in London for confirmation. He said: "I think it is possibly 40 million years old.

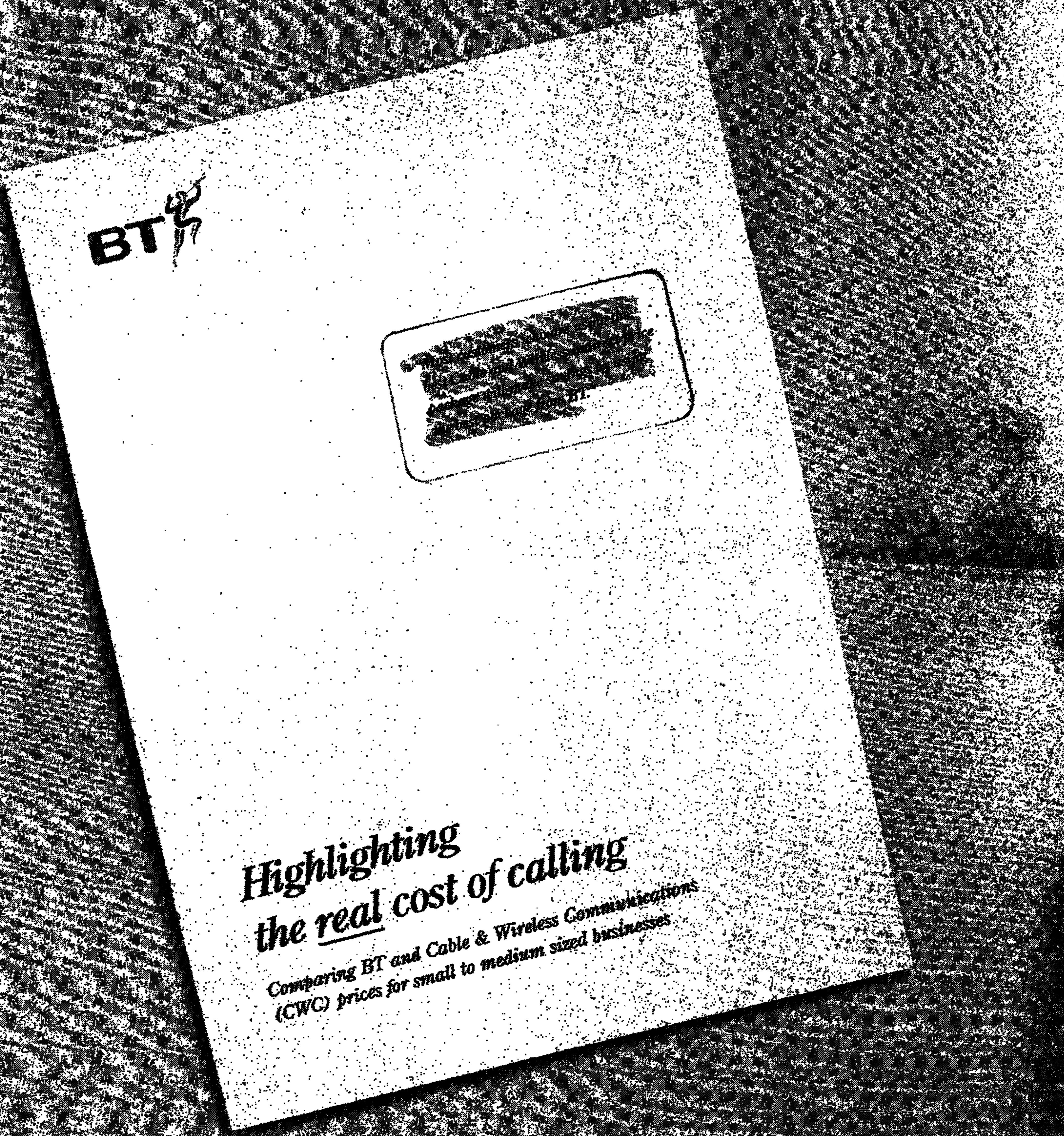
"In the 15 years I've been carrying out research, I've never seen an insect caught in amber. It's certainly the most exciting thing I've ever had.

"This is a very rare fossil within a piece of jewellery. Collectors would buy this as a fossil, not as a piece of jewellery. It's a piece you couldn't put a monetary price on. You can see air bubbles near the wings which indicates that it was caught in the amber when it was alive. If someone was faking it, they would use a dead fly. In the scientific world it would be priceless. Let's just say it was £12 very well spent."

Andrew Ross, of the palaeontology department at the Natural History Museum, believes the amber may have come from a mine in Kalingrad. Most of the insect amber has Russian origins. He added that there were only seven examples of this particular fly species in Baltic amber recorded world wide. "If it is a *Heleomyzid* fly, then it will be very rare," he said.

The amber ring, and a close-up of the fly trapped in it

Get the facts Cable & Wireless wanted to keep under cover.



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Couple find runaway son living rough in London

By Simon de Bruxelles

THE bearded figure in Leicester Square looked like another down-and-out to Catherine Davies, after a 31-day search for her missing son. But as she took a closer look there was something familiar about his football scarf and his eyes.

Then the tired faced looked back at her and said: "Mum." She reached out and hugged the 17-year-old, who had run away from home because of fears about his mock A levels. Yesterday, Alex Davies was back home with his family in Clevedon, Somerset, sleeping off his ordeal.

He vanished last month, taking a small bag and £100 from his bank account on the eve of a school parents' evening. He left behind a scribbled note saying: "I've let you down. Please forgive me." For two weeks, Mrs Davies, 46, an insurance manager, and her husband Gordon, 50, a marketing consultant, feared he might be dead, but then he made a withdrawal at a cashpoint machine in London.

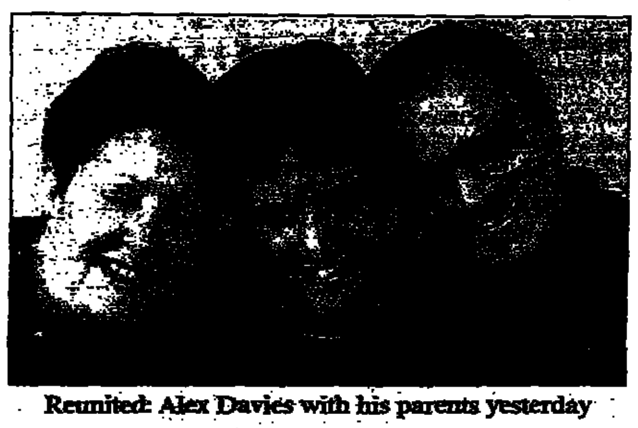
In desperation, they made appeals on television and radio, placed advertisements in *The Big Issue* and travelled to London to search for him. They arranged for appeals to be broadcast at the White Hart Lane ground of Tottenham Hotspur, his favourite team. School friends distributed leaflets. On Sunday morning, his parents were on their fifth visit to the capital. Mrs Davies said: "After an hour, I saw someone in front of us. It didn't look much like Alex or walk like him, but I decided to run after him just in case.

"When I caught up with him, I looked at this bearded face and it wasn't Alex's, but then I saw the Tottenham scarf and I recognised his eyes. He just said 'Mum'. We collapsed into each other's arms."

Alex had spent the month sleeping rough near Trafalgar Square, trying to keep out of trouble and spending his dwindling money on food. He said: "It was a massive relief when they found me."

He had been worried about his biology and geography mock A levels, which he was due to take after Christmas. "After walking out like that, I found it impossible to call home, but I knew my parents would check my bank withdrawals. I wanted them to find me. If I had seen one of their messages, I think I would have felt they were reaching out to me and I would have called them."

Mrs Davies, who has two other sons, Tim, 19, and Rowan, 13, said: "We will all enjoy a family Christmas and then Alex can take stock of what to do next. What I can't forget is that we left behind hundreds of others just like him, still living rough on the streets."



Reunited: Alex Davies with his parents yesterday

TONY WHITE

Anne Atkins hugs her 12-year-old daughter Lara, known as Bink, who was found by a family friend after wandering the streets for 36 hours

Agony aunt's ecstasy at child's return

Girl who went in search of adventure found only cold and fear, reports **Emma Wilkins**

THE agony aunt whose 12-year-old daughter went missing from home for 36 hours spoke yesterday of her joy and relief after her child was found safe and well.

Anne Atkins and her husband Shaun, a Church of England vicar, hugged their daughter Lara and said they would not be rebuking her over her "adventure" which prompted a search costing more than £10,000.

Lara — known by her family nickname Bink — who is an avid reader of adventure stories, slept rough in a park in Hammersmith, southwest London, on Sunday night and was found wandering the streets by a family friend after dark on Monday. Instead of having a "madcap" storybook adventure, Lara was left cold, damp and frightened by her experience.

Police who mobilised a helicopter, dog units and called up scores of reserve forces for the hunt, were anxious to dissuade other children from copying Lara. Although she was unharmed, the outcome could have been far more serious, officers said.

Mrs Atkins, who has written a weekly advice column in *The Daily Telegraph* for the past 12 months, said she planned to talk to her daughter about the worry she had caused. "It's great she's safe and well. She was enormously relieved to be found. It was scary for her," said Mrs Atkins, hugging her daughter in the sitting room of the family home in Fulham, southwest London.

"There are better ways to have an adventure and we will be talking to her about it. We're just so pleased to have her home that we couldn't think of rebuking her. "We have a lot of talking and hugging to do — that's more important."

Mrs Atkins, who caused controversy when she complained about the Church of England's tolerance of homosexuality in a Radio 4 broadcast last year, laughed as she said her daughter had slept somewhere near a tree. "It's a secret where she stayed on Sunday night. We know where it was. She told us that somewhere out there is a tree with 'Bink was here' on it."

Lara apologised for the trouble she had caused and thanked police and press for helping to find her. She read out a note saying: "I'm very sorry that I caused everybody so much worry and expense. I didn't realise there would be so much hassle about it or that everyone would be so worried."

Mrs Atkins and her husband have three other children: Serena, 14, Alexander, 11, and Ben, 9.

Parents win right to exclude boy from their home

By Kathryn Knight

A COUPLE have resorted to legal action to ban their bullying son from the family home. Robert and Margaret Foraker felt so intimidated by their 19-year-old son, Robert, that they were granted a restraining order to keep him away from their cottage in Tuddenham St Mary, Suffolk.

Their application for the order followed weeks of bullying by their 6ft son, who on Monday was convicted of eight counts of harassment against his parents and was remanded in custody by magistrates in Mildenhall.

"There is no question that they have felt intimidated and threatened by their son." John Fenn, for the prosecution, told the court. He said that Foraker was arrested at home on November 12 after a violent outburst in which he had broken a lavatory and shattered a window.

The family had moved to the village about four years ago when Mr Foraker, an American, started work as an administrative officer at the United States Air Force base at Mildenhall.

George Peacock, for the defence, said that Foraker would respect the restraining order because he realised that he could not co-exist in the same house as his parents. He said: "This is really a story about a young man who is frustrated with life and begins arguing at home. Quite clearly it has gone beyond the bounds of a normal argument."

Foraker, who admitted harassment, was remanded in custody until December 22 after magistrates were told that he had breached previous court orders, including a conditional discharge connected with an assault on his father.

Yesterday Mr Foraker said he had not wanted to see his son jailed but had been left with little option. "We do not want sympathy. We want medical help for our son. What he has done is wrong, but I do not want him in jail any more than I would anyone else's son," he said.

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SIEMENS

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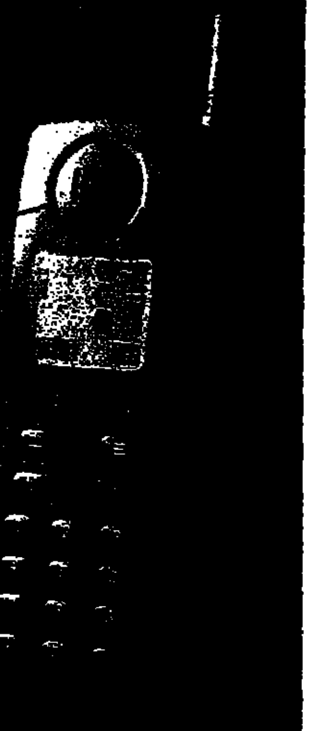

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Better Talknology from Siemens.

Warning of riots unless police improve attitude to Asians

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are risking a return of race riots because mistakes made with the black community are being repeated with a new generation of young Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, a Home Office report said yesterday.

Suspicion and hostility between police and the Afro-Caribbean groups is said to be spreading to ethnic minorities from the Asian sub-continent, and action is needed to stop this becoming entrenched. The report said that the danger of a repeat of disturbances that broke out in major cities in 1981 was already apparent, and that initiatives would be needed to prevent relations worsening.

"The same problems that have become so deeply entrenched in police relations with black people are beginning to set in also with young Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in particular," said the Home Office study on ethnic monitoring in police forces in England and Wales. The report found that within the police, collective views of Asians had changed, and that the community was no longer seen as a relatively "unproblematical" group.

The report gives a list of problems: "The Rushdie affair and other local political developments, particular problems investigating intracommunity crime, the events in Bradford 1995 [street disturbances], the growth of vigilantism, the accumulating experience of aggressive behaviour and hostility toward the police among younger Asians and perceptions of their increasing involvement in crime, pointed to the development of new, and more negative views of Asians."

In one of four areas, officers were becoming more aware of groups of young Asians "hanging around", apparently "up to no good". In stop-and-search figures, the Metropolitan Police gave a ratio of 2.5 ethnic minority stops for each white person stopped. When looked at more closely, the figure was 4.4 stops for blacks and 1.2 stops for Asians. In Leicestershire, figures suggesting parity in stop-and-searches between blacks and whites masked a search rate for black people that was more than five times the rate for whites.

The report also found that collective memories among the police of the inner-city riots were reinforced by officers' experiences and perceptions of black hostility towards police. One chief inspector told the researchers that a spiral had set in of "mutual suspicion, aggression and hostility which it will be difficult to break".

Although the study said it would be unwarranted to accuse all police officers of having general views of ethnic-minority groups, it found hostility to the whole concept of ethnic monitoring within the service. Some police considered it irrelevant, and others were resentful or feared it was a "stick" designed to beat them with.

Although research had shown that black people were over-represented in criminal justice figures relative to their presence in the population, the report said that did not prove large-scale police discrimination. However, it said that the figures could be used to reinforce an assumption about black criminality that appeared to be widespread among officers.

Butchers call on Cunningham to cancel beef ban

Black market in T-bone steaks and oxtail is bound to flourish under the counter, reports **Michael Hornsby**

BUTCHERS yesterday launched a nationwide appeal to their customers to sign a petition urging the Government to abandon its proposed ban on beef on the bone. They want at least for it to be postponed until after Christmas.

At the same time, local authority officials predicted a flourishing black market in bone-in beef: they believe it will be virtually impossible to stop the most sought-after cuts being sold under the counter.

The ban, announced by Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, on December 3, is due to come into force next Tuesday. Unless amended, it will outlaw such cuts as rib of beef, T-bone steak and oxtail. Anyone caught selling such items will be guilty of an offence punishable in a magistrates' court by a fine of up to £5,000 and/or up to six months in jail; or up to two years' jail and/or an unlimited fine in a Crown Court.

Since Dr Cunningham's announcement, customers keen to fill their freezers before the ban takes effect have cleared butchers' shops of ribs of beef, always popular in the run-up to Christmas, and oxtails. Although beef on the bone accounts for no more than 5 per cent of total beef sales, independent butchers say that being able to supply such specialist cuts is one of the things that gives them an edge over supermarkets.

A letter detailing the terms of the ban has been sent to 400 organisations representing farmers, butchers, caterers, meat processors, consumers and other interested parties, who have until 4pm on Friday to comment.

John Fuller, director of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, which represents 3,000 of Britain's 10,000 independent butchers, said: "Our customers are strongly behind us. We are confident of being able to show massive opposition to the ban by the deadline."

All the federation's members were yesterday sent a poster for display in their shop windows. It reads "Wanted: Beef on the Bone. Protect Your Right To Choose" and invites shoppers to sign a petition objecting to the ban.

David Statham, food committee chairman of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, said: "As we understand it, butchers will still be able to have beef hanging on the bone in their shops. An offence will only be committed if beef is actually sold to a customer on the bone. Unless an inspector is present to witness such a transaction, it is difficult to see how an offence could be proved."

Dr Cunningham took his decision after receiving the results of new research by the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC), the scientific body set up to advise the Government. This showed evidence of BSE ("mad cow" disease) infectivity in dorsal root ganglia, nervous tissue in the bones of the spinal column of cattle which is left with the bone when meat is cut off the spine. Tests also found "provisional" evidence that bone marrow might harbour the BSE agent. However, the chance that anyone eating beef on the bone would contract BSE is roughly one in a billion.

☐ Sandy Mole, the President of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland, resigned last night in the face of mounting criticism from members over his handling of the beef crisis. Mr Mole, who was elected president in 1996 just days before the first problems hit the industry, said his presidency had "become untenable and unsustainable." He was given an icy reception when he addressed farmers blockading the ports of Stranraer and Cairnryan to prevent Irish beef imports at the weekend.

Boycott ruling, page 14

TIM CUFF

Farmers took their tractors on to the A30 on the border between Devon and Cornwall yesterday in a go-slow protest at the policy on beef

Adverts censured

THE Vegetarian Society has been censured over three "distressing" advertisements in which it suggested that eating red meat had a direct link to cancer (Carol Midgley writes).

The Advertising Standards Authority upheld complaints from the Meat and Livestock Commission, the Danish Bacon and Meat Council and the National Farmers' Union that the series of newspaper advertisments were "shocking and offensive" and exaggerated the link to cancer. It suggested that a causal relationship was universally accepted.

One of the adverts asserted that one in three people was affected by cancer, and eating a vegetarian diet reduced the risk of developing it by 40 per cent.

Pub defies 'bone police'

By Paul Wilkinson

A PUBLICAN in a farming community is to defy what he calls the Government's "bone marrow police" by serving a beef-on-the-bone menu two days after the cuts are banned.

Lee Chadwick will offer marrowbone soup and a choice of roast ribs of beef on the bone, osso bucco, braised oxtail or T-bone steak. The cuts are being outlawed as a precaution against possible contamination from BSE-infected cattle.

Mr Chadwick said that locals at the Royal Oak in Dacre Banks, North Yorkshire, are already booking the £10 meal and that his 60-seat restaurant should be full a week on Friday. "People have had more than enough of self-seeking politicians and bureaucrats telling them what they can and cannot eat and drink, and in the process destroying livelihoods."

Mr Chadwick would face a maximum fine of £5,000. Gordon Gresty, head of the North Yorkshire trading standards department, said: "If he goes ahead, it would be illegal and we would then have to investigate the matter to consider what action to take."

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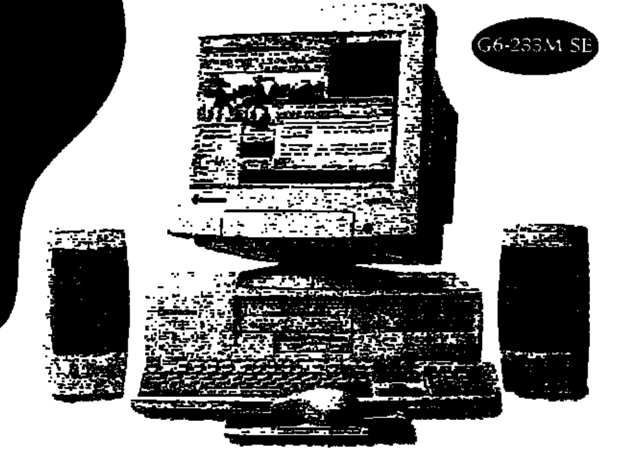

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مأخوذ من الأصل

Toyota's French choice will create British spin-off

By Ben Macintyre and Polly Newton

FRANCE'S long, intense and secret courtship of Toyota Motor Corporation led to the altar yesterday with the announcement that the Japanese car giant will build an assembly plant in the northern French city of Valenciennes.

Toyota plans to spend £400 million on the factory, the largest Japanese investment ever in France, creating 2,000 jobs by 2001 in a region with more than 20 per cent unemployment.

While the decision is a blow to British hopes for an extension of the Toyota plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, Britain is likely to enjoy a substantial spin-off from the French plant. Engines are expected to be provided by the company's engine assembly factory at Deeside, which means more investment and jobs for North Wales. Some parts for the vehicle could also be produced in Britain.

In addition, Toyota will start production at Burnaston next year of the Corolla, its bestselling model around the world. By the end of the century, Burnaston will be able to turn out more than 200,000 cars a year. As a result, there was disappointment but little bitterness among workers and local union officials at Toyota's choice.

Bob Higgins, regional secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "The very reason the company can afford to invest in Europe is due to the efforts of the workers in Burnaston. I have been given assurances that there will be continued investment in the South Derbyshire plant, and that is good news."

Ken Jackson, the union's general secretary, attributed Toyota's choice to Gordon Brown's decision to keep Britain out of the single European currency for the lifetime of this Parliament.

He said: "The UK will continue to lose investment, jobs and skills until the Government decides to join."

Toyota denied that its choice had anything to do with Britain's position on the single currency.

The Tories found other reasons to blame the Government. John Redwood, Shadow President of the Board of Trade, said the company's decision proved that Labour was "bad for business" because interest rates and the strength of sterling were hitting exporters.

Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, rejected the claims from both men. She said that Toyota simply wanted to produce cars nearer to its target markets.

Some 70 sites competed for the new plant, which will eventually produce 150,000 vehicles a year. Reasons for choosing France included Toyota's determination to make inroads into its large car market, of which Toyota has less than 1 per cent.

The Japanese company was also attracted by France's position at the heart of the future "euro zone" and a highly trained workforce in a region specialising in car manufacture. France's subsidy is expected to be about 500 million francs (£50 million).

Hope of jobs in town left to rust

From Susan Bell in Valenciennes

JAPANESE flags fluttered alongside the Tricolour yesterday in the town square of Valenciennes, as France's north-eastern rust belt celebrated the deal. School children were presented with 2,000 specially printed T-shirts.

The region once had booming iron factories and a flourishing mining industry, but gradually the mines and factories closed, leaving skilled workers facing a bleak future. In 20 years, Valenciennes lost 40,000 jobs; more than one in five of the population is unemployed. In grim housing estates on the town's outskirts, the young have turned to drugs and petty crime. At the local job centre, staff say they have been besieged during the past week with inquiries about possible employment with Toyota.

José De Castro, 54, laid off for two weeks, said: "The situation here is desperate, so this is a wonderful thing for our town, but we must also ask ourselves: will the French automobile industry suffer as a result? We are also afraid that the Japanese will bring in their own specialists rather than hiring local people."

Romard Kacioui, 25, who has never had a job, said: "Unemployment is at the root of all the problems we have here — drugs and delinquency. It's because there's nothing to do. The Toyota factory won't fix everything but it will surely help us."

Toyota's Japanese executives who move to Valenciennes will be able to enjoy regional attractions such as golf courses, and may even develop a taste for the local speciality of finely sliced smoked cow's tongue layered with foie gras and armagnac.

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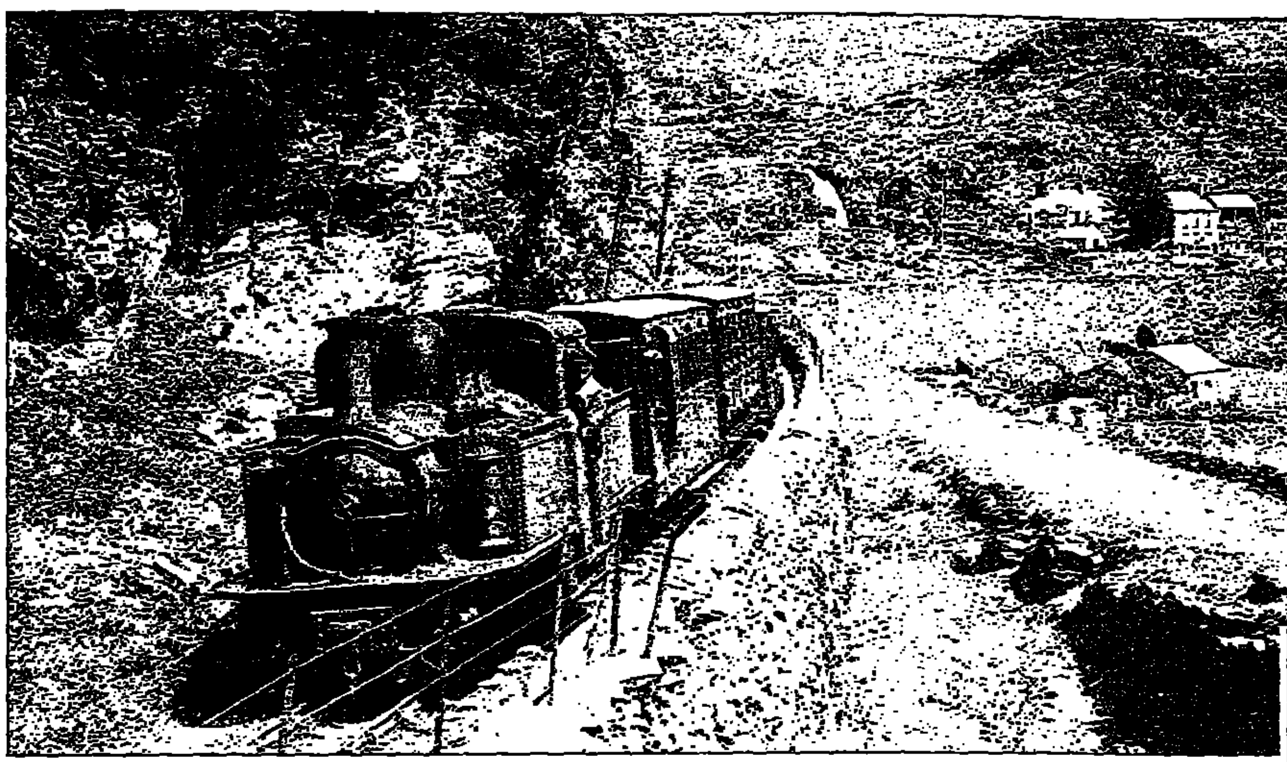


The Ffestiniog Toy Railway bound for Snowdonia in 1936. The line struggled and has been closed for 60 years

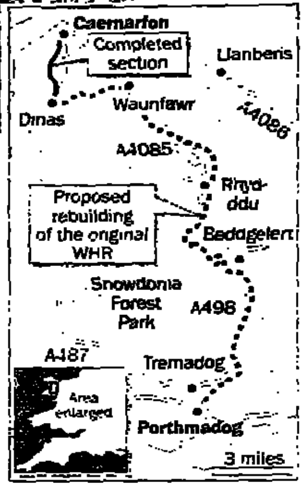
Protest aims to derail Snowdon line

By Russell Jenkins

FARMERS, ramblers and environmentalists joined forces yesterday to try to derail the reopening of a steam railway through the heart of the Snowdonia National Park.

Plans by the Ffestiniog Railway Company to restore 14 miles of the old Welsh Highland Railway line from Dinas, near Caernarfon, to Porthmadog have caused outrage among opponents who believe that the scheme would damage the landscape. The original railway opened in 1923 but won little business in the days before mass tourism and closed in 1937.

Yesterday enthusiasts faced their opponents across a packed council theatre in Caernarfon for the first day of a six-week public inquiry. Mike Hart, chairman of the Ffestiniog Railway Company, said that the project would bring international tourism to North Wales, create jobs and offer a real alternative to the car. However, opponents said the line would bring noise, pollution and visual blight.



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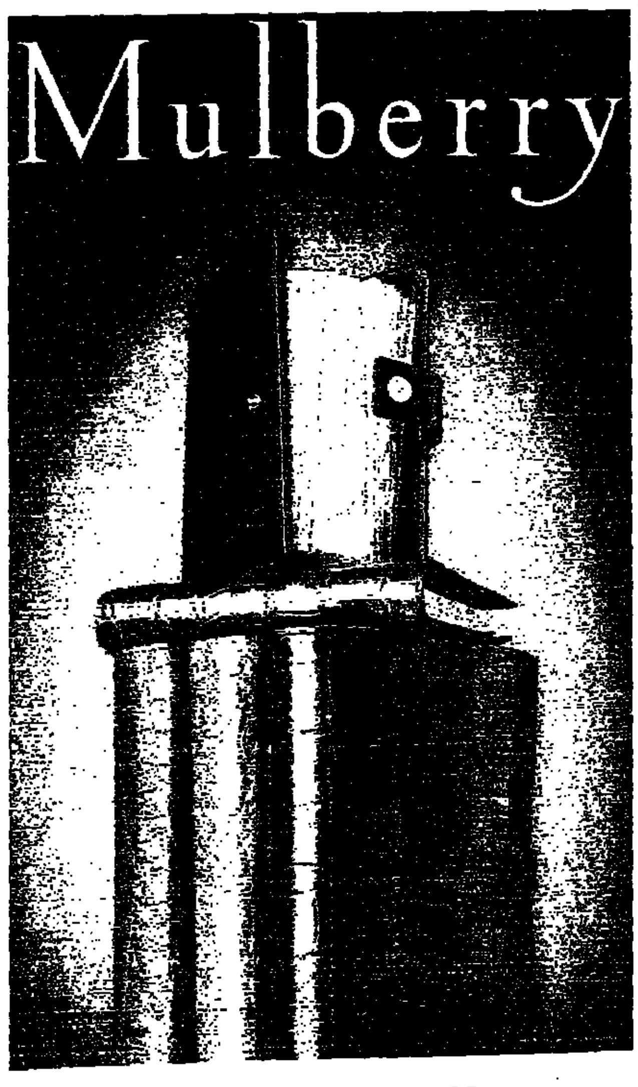

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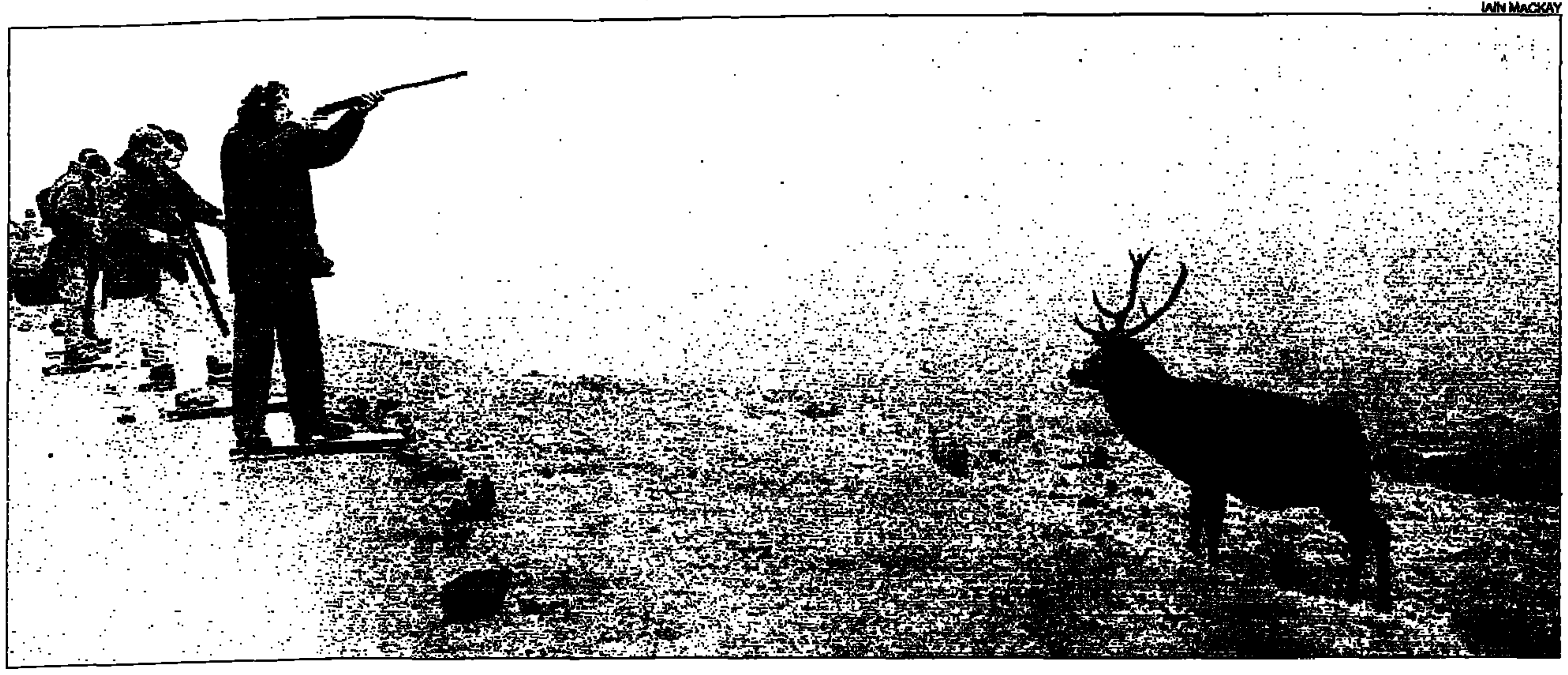

A GROUP of clay-pigeon shooters in the Highlands were amazed when their party was joined by this red deer stag. The beast ambled out of the mist to watch 40 men blasting 12-bore shotguns over a heather moor in Sutherland, northwest of Inverness (Shirley English writes).

Shooters held at bay by bold stag

Usually the sight of a gun or scent of a man, the stag's deadliest enemy, would be enough to send deer running for cover. But this mature specimen, with ten-point antlers, strolled towards the shooters, pausing occasionally to sniff the air or to graze on a tuft of heather. It did not stop until it was within a few metres.

Iain MacKay, a retired stalker for the Red Deer Commission who captured the moment on film, said: "I have never seen anything like it. I think some of the lads found it a wee bit off-putting with the big beast standing staring at them. Normally deer would be off over the first hill at the sight of a gun, never mind the sound." He said the antlers showed that the stag was neither young and inexperienced nor old and senile, and the way it pricked its ears at the gun blasts showed it was not deaf.

Mr MacKay, from Torgormack, Highland, said: "The only explanation is that he is a very easy-going fellow." Other stalkers suggested the beast knew the stag-shooting season ended on October 20 and will not restart until July 1.

Retired detective apologises for missing murders

By Paul Wilkinson

A RETIRED detective yesterday apologised to the families of three murdered schoolboys for suggesting they had died through solvent abuse.

Barry Stewart, then a detective chief superintendent with Northumbria Police, led the inquiry into the deaths of David Grieff and David Hanson, both 15, and Thomas Kelly, 18, whose bodies were found partly burned in allotment sheds or derelict houses near their homes in Sunderland. Mr Kelly was found in November 1993, David Hanson in February 1994, and David Grieff three weeks later. Their parents were outraged when Mr Stewart suggested they had been playing with fire while sniffing glue. They also claimed that, had the first death been treated as murder from the start, the two other boys might not have been killed.

It was a year after the first murder before scientific examination showed that the boys had been murdered. Last year Steven Grieveson was jailed for life for the murders.

The Police Complaints Authority yesterday published a report blaming the mistake on a lack of training and forensic evidence. Mr Stewart said: "I am sorry my comments in 1994 were not as balanced as hindsight has shown they should have been. With the best intentions I inadvertently added to the family's grief. The pathology failed to reveal a cause of death and there was a degree of speculation. The parents believed the comments besmirched their children's names and hindsight says what I did was wrong."

Molly Meacher, who led the authority's inquiry, said that the results of tests after David Hanson's death were not available until after David Grieff's death which therefore "was not a result of any lack of diligence on the part of police".

Alan Oliver, Northumbria's Assistant Chief Constable, apologised for "the lack of sensitivity towards the families".

Times Christmas Appeal

Helping captive wildlife regain their pride

From Joanna Bale in Port Elizabeth

RESTING in the shade of an acacia tree under a cloudless African sky, two magnificent lions yawn contentedly as they survey the acres of bush around them. It is a far cry from two years ago, when they were huddled in a tiny cage on the roof of a bar in Tenerife.

Rescued by the Born Free Foundation — one of the two charities nominated by *The Times* this year for its Christmas Appeal — they were flown to a South African game reserve earlier this year and released into a new six-acre enclosure on Monday.

The move coincides with the opening yesterday of a conservation and education centre at the Shamwari game reserve near Port Elizabeth to create awareness of how wildlife is cruelly treated in captivity.

The centre, jointly run with the Born Free Foundation, will also become an international sanctuary for African animals found in similar situations. Visitors, including local children, will be able to see the lions — a male named Raffi and a female called Anthea — who have made a remarkable recovery and overcome the behavioural problems associated with captivity, such as endless pacing up and down.

Will Travers, the chief executive of BFF, arrived at Shamwari on Sunday with his mother, the charity's founder, Virginia McKenna. He said: "Raffi and Anthea were the catalyst for this centre. It took us the best part of five years to get them out — and to have them here is wonderful."

Adrian Gardiner, owner of the reserve, who has spent seven years transforming 40,000 acres into a lush natural habitat for hundreds of animals, including elephant and rhino, added: "It is not only local people, but also children around the world who will be able to access Raffi and Anthea's story via the Internet."

Raffi and Anthea at Shamwari game reserve

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For details of membership, animal adoptions and projects, visit BFF's Web-site at: http://web.ukonlin.co.uk/bornfree

An allotted span for rare weed

By Michael Hornsby

ALLOTMENT holders on the Isle of Wight have become careful cultivators of one of the world's rarest weeds, treating it with as much care as they devote to their cabbages and runner beans. The half-acre site at Lake is thought to be the only remaining home in Britain of Martin's ramping fumitory, *Fumaria reuteri*.

Eight allotment holders are co-operating with English Nature in studying the site to discover why it provides such a good habitat for the pink-flowered plant.

A survey by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust found hundreds of the weeds at the site. Patrick Cloughley, of the trust, said: "There is only one other known site in Britain, in west Cornwall, but the plant has not been seen there recently. Outside Britain it exists only at a few sites in France, Spain and Portugal."

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Anger at US plan for pollution deal with Russia

FROM NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN KYOTO

AN INTERNATIONAL rescue fund to help to save small island nations from rising sea levels was expected to be approved last night as America offered to back "real reductions" in greenhouse gases.

But the United States' strategy angered environmentalists and officials from several nations, who claimed that the proposals would do little to prevent global warming.

Under the plan, the United States would set up a carbon trading block with Canada, Australia, New Zealand and, significantly, Russia.

Stuart Eizenstat, the US Under-Secretary of State for economic, business and agricultural affairs, said that there had been rumours that the US was ready to offer only a 2 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases, principally carbon dioxide, between 2008 and 2012.

But he said that figure underestimated the US proposal: "We are working on a new approach of trading within an umbrella of countries."

American sources said the United States had offered to make a 5 per cent reduction. But the US plan, described by one green group as a "fiddle" and the worst of all possible scenarios, will allow America to offset its rising carbon dioxide pollution by "buying in", at cheap prices, the huge emission reductions which have occurred since 1990 in Russia since the collapse of its heavy polluting industries. Carbon dioxide emissions in Russia have fallen by nearly 30 per cent during the past five to seven years and will equate to some 3.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide available to be traded by 2000.

Eizenstat: working on a new approach of trading

John Gummer, the former Environment Minister and a member of the British delegation, said: "This will allow America to do less by buying from Russia emissions that Russia would never have emitted anyway.

"America is treating this as a trade negotiation over the price of beans instead of a last-ditch discussion to protect the planet. They are horse trading. I wish this was just about horses but it is about whether some countries disappear under the waves, or areas such as Bangladesh, or even the sea coast of my constituency in Suffolk, are flooded forever," he added.

British officials were treating the American proposal with caution and said that there needed to be a limit on the level of US pollution that could be offset by Russia's carbon credits.

Mr Eizenstat said that a significant reduction in US emissions depended on America securing a package of measures. These included the the International Conference on Climate Control approving the idea of carbon sinks — forests that soak up carbon dioxide and which some nations want to be counted against their domestic emissions. Other measures the US wants include making the deal involve six greenhouse gases rather than the three proposed by the European Union.

Last night the delegates in Kyoto were also struggling to agree another proposal that would set differing greenhouse gas reductions for industrialised nations. European Union members would have a net target of an 8 per cent reduction, America's would be 5 per cent and Japan's would be just 4.5 per cent. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said that this deal would be hard for Britain to accept.

At least one significant area of agreement was set to be endorsed in the guise of a rescue package for nations vulnerable to global warming. The scheme, called the Clean Development Mechanism, will help countries facing the worst impacts, such as low-lying islands and coral atolls, carry out so-called adaptation projects.

John Ashe, the United Nations Ambassador for Antigua and Barbuda and a leading delegate with the G77 group of developing nations, said yesterday: "Such schemes include re-zoning beaches, building sea walls or moving buildings and intrastructure back into the interior."

The scheme is being heralded as an important deal maker as it brings the developed and developing worlds closer together.

The rescue plan will be funded by fees paid by rich nations. The United States, with support from scores of countries, is keen to offset its carbon gas emissions by carrying out clean energy and tree-planting projects in the Third World.

These projects, known as joint implementation, are deemed to be a cheaper way of kerbing greenhouse gases in the developed world.

Bright ideas for a greener city

PAINTING pavements and roofs in bright, reflective colours could save cities huge sums in reduced fuel and air conditioning bills, a team of economists said yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes).

Studies of Los Angeles showed that a combination of light coloured roofs and pavements, with tree planting and vegetation schemes to create shade and to help to bounce solar radiation away, could cool the city by 6F.

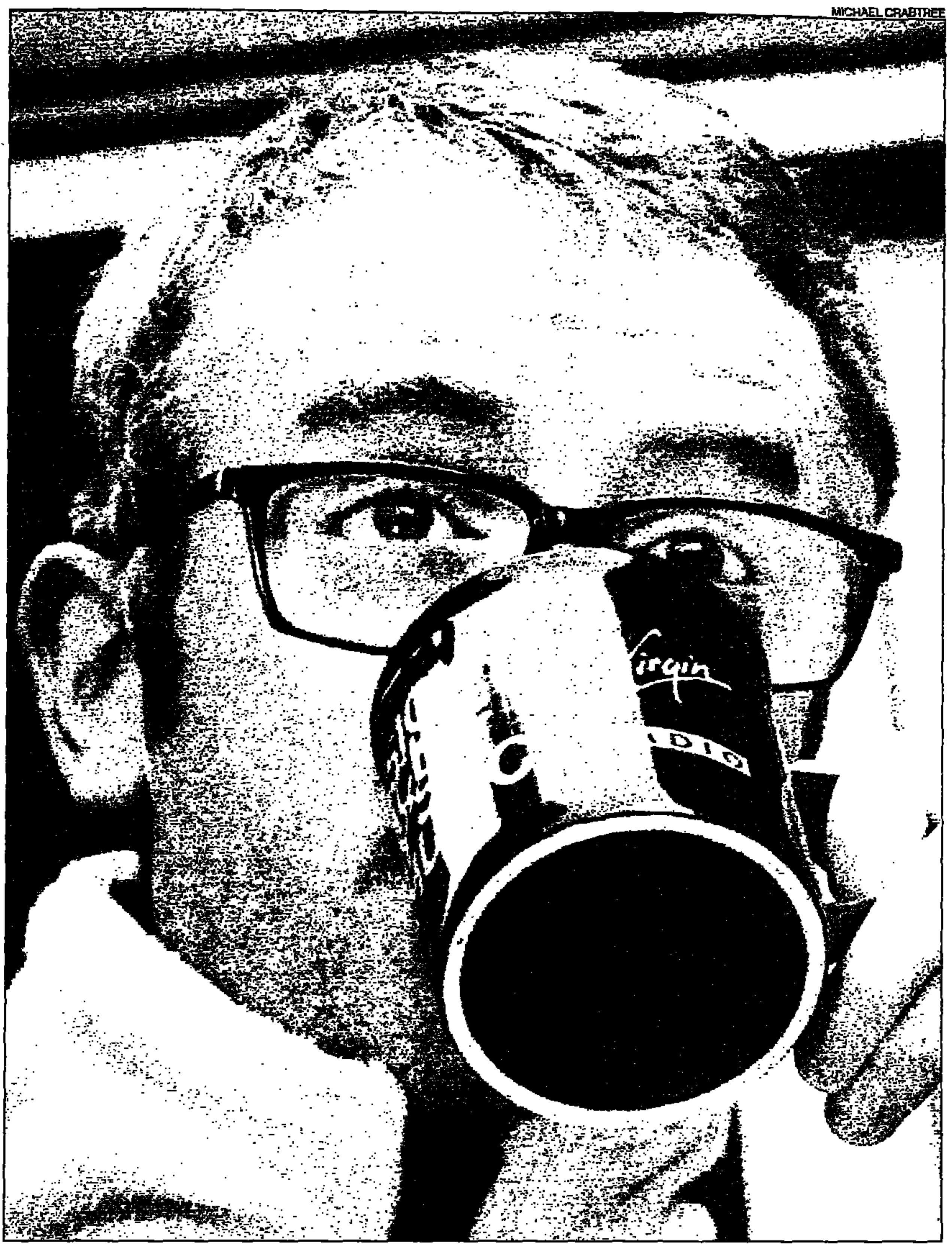
The team says the strategy would cut demand for air conditioning by 20 per cent, local smogs by about 12 per cent and save $500 million a year.

The economists believe that a city such as London would benefit despite its cooler climate. While homes and businesses would have to turn up the heating in winter because they were absorbing less solar energy, the costs would be more than offset by the energy and other savings in summer.

Amory Lovins, of the Rocky Mountain Institute in Snowmass, Colorado, said that other cost-effective measures would include fitting tower blocks with energy-efficient heating, lighting and air-conditioning. Studies indicated that savings on fuel and emissions of carbon dioxide could be between 50 and 75 per cent in a 20-year-old building.

His views were backed by Stephen De Canio, Professor of Economics at the University of California. Professor De Canio also said that forecasters in the oil industry who believed that cuts in energy use would trigger economic decline were talking "hot air".

MICHAEL CRABTREE



Chris Evans, Virgin Radio's new proprietor, taking tea and reporters' questions at the station yesterday morning

Evans happy to take a pay cut to make his dream come true

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS EVANS says he is "skint" after paying £80 million to take over Virgin Radio. During his breakfast show yesterday, the radio and television presenter made repeated references to his penniless status. "Cashpoints are a thing of the past," he said. "I haven't got any money."

Mr Evans was taken on by Richard Branson for £200,000 over ten weeks, which he donated to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Yesterday he said he would now be taking an 80 per cent pay cut and awarding himself £4,000 a week: "I had to reduce my fees to allow the bottom line of the company to grow." Among the records played yesterday on his three-hour show was *The Lunatics (Have Taken Over The Asylum)* by the Fun Boy Three.

Staff arriving for work at the station's London headquarters with hangovers from a celebration party the night before looked relieved about the takeover. Many had feared redundancies if the station had been bought by Capital, as had looked likely. Mr Evans arrived grinning minutes before his show started at 7am and declared that owning a radio station was a dream come true.

He put up £2 million in cash and his stake in his Ginger Productions Company, valued at £30 million, to buy Virgin Radio. The rest of the money came from Apax Partners, the investment group, and French bankers Paribas.

Yesterday he said: "The *most* important thing is that I will continue to do what I do — giving ideas and producing the programmes." Asked if he would have to tone down his irreverent behaviour in view of his new responsibilities, Mr Evans said: "I can't go corporate, although we have gone corporate from a business point of view, but I can do what I want." He said there was a massive lack of on-air talent on television and radio and it was his ambition to nurture new talent. "It's up to me while I'm still young enough, because when I am 40 I won't know who the 'in' people are either."

Mr Evans told listeners: "We're not working for Richard Branson any more, but he's going to be looking after us. He will be giving us all his wisdom. He is like our Uncle Richard and if we have any problems we are going to see him."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oyston's rape plea rejected by judges

The businessman Owen Oyston, 64, lost his appeal against convictions and a six-year prison sentence for the rape and indecent assault of a teenage model.

His lawyers said that he would seek remedy at the European Court of Justice. Oyston was ordered to pay prosecution costs estimated at £100,000, as well as his own. He had claimed that the girl was not the innocent described during the trial, and that there was new evidence, including an affair she had had in Crete. Lord Justice Phillips said: "The brief relationship with a young man is of no relevance to the question of whether she was raped."

Seconds away

PC David Allcock, 37, who was sexually discriminated against in an assault course test to become a dog handler — he was within 14 seconds of the limit set for women officers but 46 seconds outside that for men — has accepted an undisclosed sum from Hampshire police.

Zero tolerance

The head of a crime prevention panel in Middlesbrough has resigned in protest at the suspension of Ray Mallon, the town's head of CID who backs "zero tolerance". Dorothy Sewell, who has served on the panel for 15 years, has begun a petition for his reinstatement.

Pallbearer dies

An elderly pallbearer collapsed and died after trying to lift a coffin trolley into the back of a hearse. Colleagues failed in their attempts to revive Austin Willcocks, 76, a lay preacher and former postman who worked for a firm of funeral directors in Cullompton, Devon.

Singer arrested

Shane MacGowan, the singer, was arrested after allegedly throwing a microphone stand into the crowd at a concert at Liverpool University. Mr MacGowan, formerly with The Pogues, was not charged and has been released on police bail pending further inquiries.

Bank's red mist

A customer with a £300 overdraft limit received a bank letter warning him that he was more than £50 million in debt and had ten days to pay. Matthew Williams, 23, an assistant pub manager from Llanishen, Cardiff, was £200 overdrawn. Barclays has apologised for the error.

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Tories will vote with Labour to boost rebellion

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories have decided to vote with the Government over its plans to cut single-parent benefit in the hope of maximising a Labour rebellion tonight.

William Hague announced yesterday that his party would support Tony Blair, as the number of Labour backbenchers who say they will vote against the Government continued to grow.

Last week the Tories said that they would abstain on the issue but party strategists privately admitted that the new tactic to vote with the Government would encourage more MPs to rebel. "Ken Livingstone and his friends would never be seen going into the same division lobby as us," one Tory MP said.

Mr Hague said his party would back the Government because the Tories had introduced the cuts. "I'm not afraid to go into the same lobby as the Government, of saying: if you want to adopt the same policies we were having, we will vote with you on principle and honesty."

Yesterday about a dozen Labour MPs made clear that they would vote against the Government's decision to cut single-parent benefit by £6 a week. But backbenchers claimed that at least 20 MPs would vote against the Government and between 25 and 30 more would abstain.

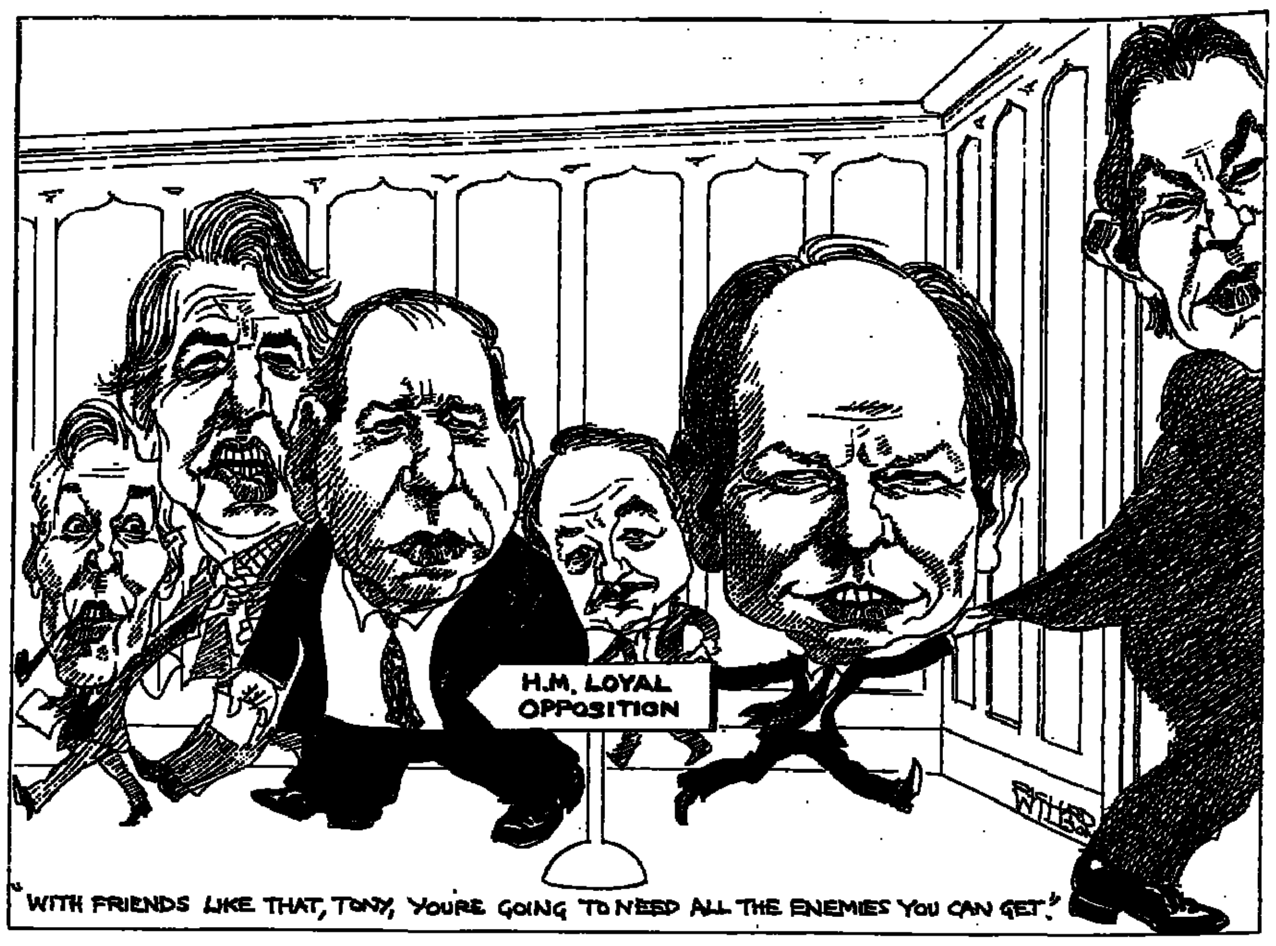
The whips suspect that many of these will peel off when they realise that the Government has no intention of making any concession on the benefit measure. They also hope to hide many of the abstentions by agreeing that the 50 MPs who will be away working in their constituencies will not be recalled. Other MPs are said to be away on select committee trips.

But some of the abstaining rebels insisted that they would turn up in the Commons and "sit on their hands" to show their dissent.

Labour whips were frantically trying to persuade potential rebels to fall into line, but they admitted that those who had opposed the cuts on radio or television had pushed themselves into a corner and they were unlikely to change their mind. They maintained that Nick Brown, the Chief Whip would suspend any MP who voted against the three-line whip, and possibly those who abstained.

It is against the Labour Party's new disciplinary code to vote against the Government. Mr Brown will make a decision on disciplinary action this afternoon, but party sources insisted that the size of the revolt would not influence him.

The leftwinger Tony Benn disclosed yesterday that he will vote against a Labour Government for the first time in 50 years. Last time he defied the whip was in 1947 when he voted against a measure to call up for the Korean war reservists who had served in the Army. Yesterday Mr Benn said: "I cannot in all conscience vote to cut the income of the poorest people."



"WITH FRIENDS LIKE THAT, TONY, YOU'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE ENEMIES YOU CAN GET."

Other Labour MPs likely to join him in voting against the Government include Brian Sedgemore, Dennis Skinner, Llews Smith, Ronnie Campbell, Dennis Canavan, Audrey Wise and Lynne Jones, John Marek, Ken Livingstone and Maria Fyfe.

Labour whips are hoping to avoid any resignations by ministerial aides, but insist that if any defy the Government they will be sacked.

MPs will also vote tonight on an amendment which radically reduces the time that people can backdate benefit claims. Last year the Tories announced that they intended to reduce backdating from 12 months to three months, but Labour has gone further and wants it reduced to one month. Some Labour MPs are also expected to rebel on this issue.

Earlier yesterday Mr Hague tried to whip up Labour dissent by accusing Mr Blair of exerting excessive control over his MPs. Labour's discipline made it easier to get good headlines from time to time, Mr Hague said. "But I don't envy it in the long term because I think he's creating a lot of mindless robots in the Labour Party. There are some Labour MPs sitting in the House of Commons who daren't say anything."

Shredding files to be a criminal offence

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

MINISTERS and civil servants could face jail or a substantial fine if they destroy government material requested for release under new Freedom of Information laws.

The proposal is included in tomorrow's Government White Paper on Freedom of Information and represents a significant victory for Dr David Clark, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, who is determined that any law should be radical and have "teeth".

The White Paper says that all papers should be released unless there are compelling public interest reasons to withhold information. Only papers relating to the security services and legal proceedings would remain exempt from disclosure requirements. In other areas, departments would be required to disclose the facts and analysis behind decisions.

The paper also proposes the appointment of an independent Information Commissioner, with the power to order the opening of Whitehall files. Ministers believe this measure would ensure public confidence in the new laws.

Members of the public will have direct access to the Commissioner and will not have to go through a laborious route through Parliament. The present role of the Parliamentary Ombudsman in adjudicating disputes between departments and members of the public is considered too complex. Inquiries take many weeks — and some over two years — to be resolved.

It is possible that the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Michael Buckley, could be given new powers and more resources to take on requests under Freedom of Information. At present members of the public must refer a complaint through an MP but one option might be allow individuals direct access to him. Last year only 2,000 requests for information were made under the government's code on access to information.

Women MPs reveal sexism of men about the House

Polly Newton reports on accusations of crude and repulsive suggestions and gestures

Griffiths: the culprits all look the same to her

WOMEN MPs run a gauntlet of sexist comments and gestures at Westminster, according to a television programme to be broadcast next month. Chief culprits, women on both sides of the House say, are the Tories.

One of the most startling allegations concerns two Conservative MPs who regularly "put their hands out in front of them as if they are weighing melons" when women are speaking in the chamber.

Jane Griffiths, new Labour MP for Reading East, tells the *Westminster Women* programme that she does not know who the culprits are "because they all look the same to me". Ms Griffiths also describes being interrupted by mocking laughter when she first spoke in the Commons.

"There are things you half hear and you're not sure if you heard it right, and they use gesture and body language which gets missed by the cameras so they can't be caught at it. They do it on purpose. It's to put us off our stride. It's just another tactic in the battle and they will use anything, and men have always done that when they feel threatened by women."

Ms Griffiths said yesterday that younger Tory MPs seemed more likely than their older colleagues to behave in a sexist way. "If there is anything about health, whenever you mention breasts or pregnancy, they giggle. They can't help it... it must be the public school they went to."

Emma Nicholson, who defected from the Tories to the Liberal Democrats during the last Parliament, says that her former Tory colleagues used to make "some of the most crude and repulsive suggestions" about women on the opposite benches. She often left the chamber rather than tolerate it. "I've never heard phraseology like it."

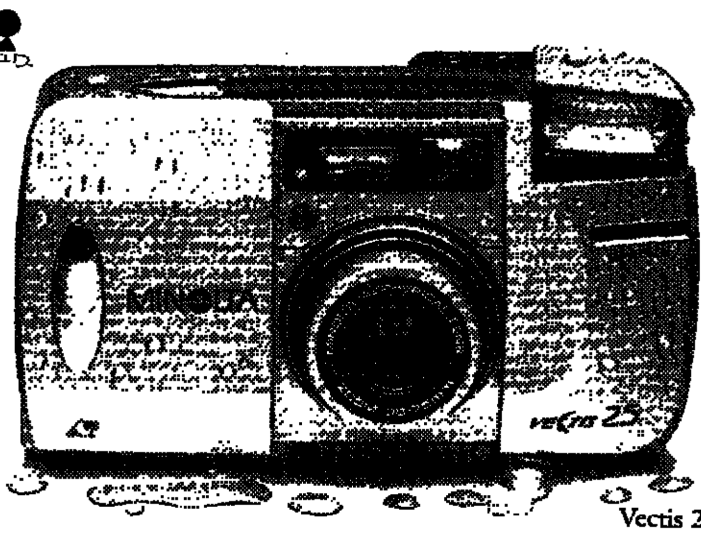
Other women MPs believe they have no particular cause for complaint. Gwyneth Dunwoody, the long-serving Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich, says of her male colleagues: "They are vicious to one another so you shouldn't be a woman politician if you can't deal with it." And Maria Eagle, the new Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, says she will give as good as she gets. "When it gets really offensive, I think it can be shocking but I wouldn't take it without responding in kind."

In a rare interview, the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, responds to the suggestion that she was harsher on new women MPs after the general election than on the men. She says: "It is to be regretted if they feel that because it really isn't the case. I feel for them very much."

☐ *Westminster Women*, an LWT production, begins on January 4 at 1.10pm on ITV.

Eagle: promises to give as good as she gets

MINOLTA



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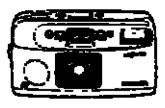

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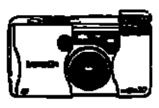

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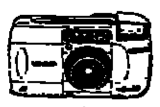

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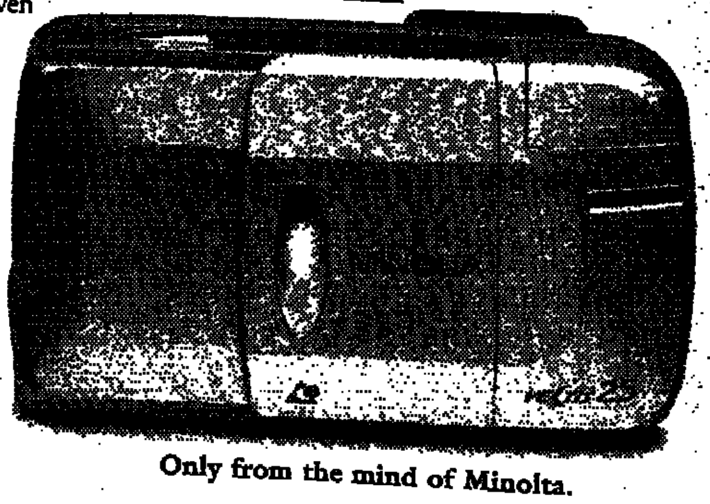

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Dobson heralds end to internal market

GP-led local commissioning groups will be central to the revamped health service, Ian Murray reports

THE radical ten-year programme for the National Health Service set out by the Government yesterday offers no extra money, a capped budget, and improvements funded largely by cutting £1 billion of red tape.

The White Paper is intended to shape the NHS for the second half-century of its life, with many of the reforms introduced by the Conservatives in the past seven years being dismantled. The competitive internal market is to be replaced with an integrated approach, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, told MPs yesterday. GP-led local commissioning groups will be set up, responsible for implementing a three-year health improvement programme to meet the needs of each area.

The White Paper foreshadows the involvement of local authorities, responsible for funding community care, in drawing up these health improvement programmes. These will include drives for better housing, education and employment opportunites to help reduce poverty.

The existing fundholding scheme, which about 55 per cent of all GPs have joined, is to be end in April 1999. Pilot schemes for a system of primary care commissioning groups are to start next April.

Funds for the revamped health service will be capped, with money shared among the health authorities, taking account of differing needs.

The reduced number of health authorities will be in charge of allocating their funds to each of the primary care groups, comprising GPs and community nurses, in their areas. The authorities will be responsible for overseeing the effectiveness of the NHS in their area and will be able to hold the primary care groups to account if things go wrong. Special teams can go in to sort things out if budgets and care fall below standard.

The primary care groups will cover an area of 100,000 patients, and will be responsible for commissioning services for their community, working with social services. They will control a single, unified, capped budget and will be able to spend that money according to local need.

Four types of primary care groups will be set up initially. At the lowest level will be some that act in support, advising the health authority in commissioning care for their population. Groups ready to take responsibility for managing the budget will work as part of the health authority. At a higher level of responsibility, groups can become established as free-standing bodies accountable to the health authority for commissioning care. The Government expects all groups ultimately to reach this level. At the highest level, these free-standing groups will be responsible for both health and community services in their area.

Hospital trusts will be party to the local health improvement programme. They will agree long-term service agreements with the primary care groups. These agreements, of a minimum of three years, will be for the provision of care for different sections of the community such as the elderly, heart patients or children.

To ensure quality there will be two new national bodies. One will help ensure consistent access to services and quality of care throughout the country. The other will be an institute for clinical excellence.

Locally, quality is to monitored by a commission for health improvement which will support the clinical services, and tackle shortcomings by invitation or if the Health Secretary is advised that the local group is underperforming or considers a problem has not been tackled. Standards will be laid down in long-term agreements that will replace the present annual contracts. There will be a system of clinical governance in trusts and primary care groups to ensure that standards are met, backed by a statutory duty for quality in hospitals.

A league table of cost efficiency is to be introduced. For the first time each medical procedures and operation is to be given a clear definition so that different trusts will be able to perform them according to agreed standards. The league tables will then show how much each trust charges to carry out the same service. The Government hopes this will lead to savings.

The performance league tables established by the Conservatives, under the Patient's Charter, are to be replaced with clinical standards designed to enable comparisons between the medical capability of each trust.

Leading article, page 19

THE MAIN POINTS

- ■ Abolition of the internal market and GP fundholding introduced by the Tories in 1990
- ■ GPs and community nurses to have control of buying most hospital and community care
- ■ Faster and more dependable information for patients, including a 24-hour helpline, an NHS information superhighway
- ■ A guarantee of specialist care for cancer patients within two weeks
- ■ Reducing red tape and bureaucracy by £1 billion over the next five years
- ■ A new NHS Charter to rebuild public confidence.

Pledge to speed up checks for cancer

EVERYONE with suspected cancer will be able to see a spcialist within two weeks of a GP deciding that an urgent appointment is needed (Ian Murray writes). The White Paper promises that this arrangement be in place for suspected breast cancer by April 1999, and for all other suspected cases a year later.

The health service will provide a 24-hour telephone advice line staffed by nurses. This is to be piloted through three helplines starting next March, and should cover the entire country by 2000.

Quicker test results, specialist advice in the doctor's surgery and on-line booking of out-patient appointments will be made possible by connecting every GP surgery and each hospital to NHSnet, the service's own in-house information system.

It could also mean less waiting time for prescriptions through links between the pharmacies and the GPs. Demonstration sites will be set up in every region by the end of next year to examine how the Net can be most useful to patients.

By the end of 1999, all computerised surgeries will be able to receive test results over the line, and by 2002 it is expected that this service will be available everywhere.

Chaand Nagpaul, above, is chairman of the Harrow commissioning group of 41 GPs looking after 73,000 patients in Stanmore, northwest London. His group is one of the commissioning schemes chosen to pilot the new system. "I welcome the policy of replacing multiple fundholders with a locality-based model which will ensure there is equality of treatment within that population and flexibility in terms of the levels of responsibility in the primary care groups. Having a unified budget for a locality is a better system but at the end of the day we know that the total amount that will be available is not going to be enough to satisfy demands. I would not want to hoodwink the population into believing that just by changing the way the NHS works they will end up in receipt of the kind of care they have been encouraged to expect. When they fail to get it I don't want the public to point the finger at the primary care groups who are not responsible for the health service being underfunded. There is a certain amount of bureaucracy in all this and you have to wonder whether it will actually work."

REACTION: THE NON-FUNDHOLDER

THE PRACTICE NURSE

Juliana Vein, right, has worked for the past ten years as one of two nurses in an inner London practice with 10,000 patients. "Nurses like us are already taking on many of the duties and responsibilities of doctors, and the White Paper seems to mean that trend will continue. With my colleague we swap between issuing repeat prescriptions and providing consultations to patients. Repeat prescriptions means we have to be able to answer all a patient's queries about the drugs they are being prescribed, make sure they are getting the right doses, understand generic equivalents and keep the computer up to date. We do all the family planning clinics, smear tests and recalls, take histories and even see patients if the doctor doesn't have time. After ten years in the job you soon sort out who needs emergency treatment and who can come back later. We do vaccinations, bandage cut fingers, take blood samples and do annual tests on all the over-75s. Without us you would need a lot more doctors and the White Paper seems to acknowledge that."

THE FUNDHOLDER

Jonathan Munday, right, is one of three partners who run one of the six GP practices awarded a Charter Mark this month. They look after 10,000 patients in an area of Westminster with a high level of poverty. "The White Paper shows that the Government is accepting that fundholding works and their idea is to compel non-fundholders to become fundholders. But it is a recipe for chaos. With 100,000 patients in each group, there will be around 50 GPs, all with different needs and priorities. You can't get them all sitting round a table arguing and if you did you would lose 50 GPs' sessions while they argued. In my practice I employ a manager to do what I want, but with this system you will end up with a manager telling the doctors what to do. I do not understand why this has all been put through this way. We were promised pilot projects by the Government before anything was done and all of a sudden there are no pilot projects and we have been presented with something before there has been proper consultation."

This takes us another step down the American way

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE NHS White Paper is a good deal better than one might have guessed from listening to Frank Dobson's hyperbole. The Health Secretary has never been a man to undersell a policy and yesterday he portrayed himself as the son of Aneurin Bevan, sweeping way the "wasteful and bureaucratic competitive internal market" and modestly promising to give "our country a modern and dependable health service that is once again the envy of the world".

The reality of the plan prepared by Mr Dobson and Alan Milburn is less dramatic, but still worthwhile. There is a good deal of continuity with the Tories' NHS reforms, as John Maples pointed out in one of the most balanced, and therefore effective, contributions I have heard from the Opposition frontbench for some time. The Government has accepted the key principle of the 1990s' changes — the purchaser/provider split which Mr Dobson described as the "separation between planning and providing services". The White Paper proposes both to end some of the short-term disruptions caused by the internal market and to remove some of the anomalies created by having less than three fifths of the population covered by GP fundholders.

Mr Dobson made much of replacing competition by partnership. Behind this rhetorical flourish lies a devolution of power to general practitioners and community nurses under the form of primary care groups, which will align clinical and financial responsibility. We are moving to a British version of the American managed health care system. These groups will spend all the health money for their patients within a single unified budget, extending the current fundholding budgets for elective surgery. In theory, this is a tighter overall limit than now, though there will be greater flexibility to shift within budgets, which will anyway be monitored by health authorities. However, there is a clear intention to restrain the 5 per cent annual rise in GP referrals to hospital specialists. A telephone helpline staffed by nurses is being set up in the hope of reducing demands on doctors and hospitals.

At the same time, the Government is hoping to reduce both the upheavals and administrative costs of the internal market by moving from annual to three-year, and eventually five-year, service contracts. Together with a reduction in the number of health authorities, the hope is that this will shift an extra £1 billion from bureaucracy into frontline services. We will see, though the figure was apparently vetted in detail by the Treasury.

There is a close parallel between the Government's approaches to health and to schools. The emphasis is on local professionals most trusted by the public, GPs and headteachers. They are being given more professional and financial responsibility. The assurance of quality to parents and patients will be provided by strong central inspection. Just as the threat of intervention lies behind failing schools and teachers, so doctors and hospitals will face the pressure of a national schedule of comparative costs for treating different conditions, a new Commission for Health Improvement, capping of management costs and public measures of the performance of trusts. This is similar to the proposed "best value" system for improving local authority performance. Comparison, not competition, is now the watchword, with incentives for greater efficiency.

The missing link is patient and parental choice. The Government is relying on local professionals reinforced by a Whitehall stick and performance tables in the background to ensure improved quality. But a patient dissatisfied with his or her GP, and a parent with the local school, has little alternative. The Government needs to strengthen the consumer discipline on local providers.

PETER RIDDELL

Patients must be treated as partners, GPs told

By Ian Murray

DOCTORS must stop patronising patients and treat them as partners, according to the first set of ethical guidelines for surgeons. The new rules are meant to put an end to the practice of doctors carrying out operations without first telling patients what the consequences might be.

Sir Rodney Sweetman, president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, said: "Surgeons now are much more conscious of their responsibility for explaining things than they were. There is a difficulty in deciding how much to tell a patient not to frighten them, but that must all be part of the personal relationship you need to build."

The guidelines make it clear that patients must never be used as guinea pigs and should always be given a reasonable explanation of the benefits, dangers and alternatives to any operation they are being offered

"Patients must be seen as partners and must be given much more opportunity to ask questions and not be fobbed off," said Alan Johnson, professor of surgery at Sheffield University, who chaired the working party that drew up the new guidelines.

"Attitudes are changing and there has to be an end to the old paternalistic approach of a doctor telling a patient, 'We know what's best for you'."

The guidelines are a progressive move away from the current legal position which means a doctor cannot be sued for negligence for failing to warn a patient of the dangers of an operation. The courts have held that if a number of senior surgeons give evidence that they would not have told a patient about the dangers then any case for negligence fails.

The guidelines also advise surgeons they have the moral right not to prevent the death of a brain-damaged patient doomed to living a demonstrably awful life, although the final decision must be taken by the consultant in charge.

The document says treatment to keep someone alive in these circumstances does not have to be given to adults or children who cannot think for themselves where such action is believed by the clinical team — in consultation with relatives — to be in the patient's best interests.

The guidelines underline that active euthanasia is illegal in Britain and the Republic of Ireland, but say surgeons should respect the "living will" wishes of patients who ask that specific treatments should not be given for particular conditions, such as irreversible brain damage.

Surgeons are also advised that as rationing is inevitable in the health service, they must ensure that treatment is given on the basis of clinical need and not on any grounds of social status, class or personal attributes. Doctors are also warned against "going beyond the limits of the permissable dissemination of factual information" by publicising treatments in order to obtain more patients.

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US tribute to rebel angers Beijing

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN BEIJING

CHINA reacted angrily yesterday to a meeting between President Clinton and Wei Jingsheng, a prominent dissident and advocate of democracy freed last month after nearly 18 years in prison. He is undergoing medical treatment in the United States.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Mr Clinton's meeting on Monday was "completely wrong. The Chinese Government objects to American officials meeting with Wei. The US Government knows our position very clearly."

Diplomats said Beijing was annoyed that Mr Clinton had received the rebel at the White House so soon after President Jiang Zemin's state visit last month. In Beijing's eyes, the encounter "devalues Mr Jiang's reception on the White House lawn", said one envoy.

Swiss banks' hunger for profits stirs backlash

FROM PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA

THE Swiss are bracing themselves for a winter of discontent after the merger of their two largest banks brought threats of a tough response from trade unionists. They gave warning of an unusually hard fight against at least 7,000 job losses and said they were in no mood to talk.

Politicians from all sides condemned the cuts: Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, the Economy Minister, admitted it was a substantial blow to a stagnant economy. Banks and insurance companies, previously regarded as part of the social fabric, have shed several thousand jobs recently and lost respect while seeking lower corporate taxes and posting record profits. Kaspar Villiger, the Finance Minister, hinted that a capital-gains tax could be introduced for the first time.

Switzerland's unemployment rate of 4.9 per cent is low by most standards but has risen fourfold in the past six years: for the first time this century unemployment is higher in Switzerland than the United States. The new United Bank of Switzerland (UBS), now the world's second-largest, is likely to close at least a third of its branches.

A confidential survey for the banks last month showed their popularity was at all all-time low. High-street customers were among their most severe critics, complaining about the main banks' reluctance to offer start-up loans to the small businesses needed to boost the economy. It is not clear if there was also discontent about the banks' controversial handling of Holocaust assets. The Bankers Association refused to publish the study, although some figures were leaked to the press.

Directors of the UBS have done little to dispel accusations of arrogance and callousness. They promised to create jobs but in the same breath spoilt the effect by saying the merger would only keep them happy for another five years.

Claude Frey, a normally pro-business Radical MP, told the banks they could expect a backlash: "In a direct democracy the bankers are in danger of exposing themselves to sanctions such as the removal of banking secrecy."

Analysts said the new bank was a multinational giant which was only "Swiss" inasmuch as it provided a marketing asset for its private banking arm, to be based in Basle.

Switzerland's banking secrecy laws have been watered down by parliament in recent years and financiers here are loath to acknowledge that they can offer little more legal discretion than some of their international rivals, apart from cases of tax evasion, for fear of losing their greatest trademark.

Last night unions were organising action against the UBS and called on the authorities to intervene. There were reports of a climate of fear inside the banks, with employees afraid to take a stand.

Vatican denies Nazi gold link

Navarro-Valls: no plan to open Rome archives

Rome: The Vatican has denied that it stored money and gold for Croatian fascists after the Second World War and said it had no plans to open its archives for the period.

The Vatican restated its denial yesterday in a statement by Joaquin Navarro-Valls, its chief spokesman, in response to last week's conference on Nazi gold in London. Switzerland has also come in for criticism over its gold dealings with the Nazis.

"As far as gold taken by Nazis in Croatia, research in the Vatican archives confirms that there is no existence of documents relating to this, thus ruling out any supposed transaction on the part of the Holy See," Dr Navarro-Valls said.

The charges surfaced in July when an American cable television network reported the discovery of a 1946 Treasury Department document claiming that the Vatican allowed Croatian fascists to hide gold coins and cash worth about $130 million (£79 million) which had been taken from Serbs and Jews. *(Reuters)*

Donatella Versace at the gala held in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art honouring her brother

Stars of style pay Versace homage

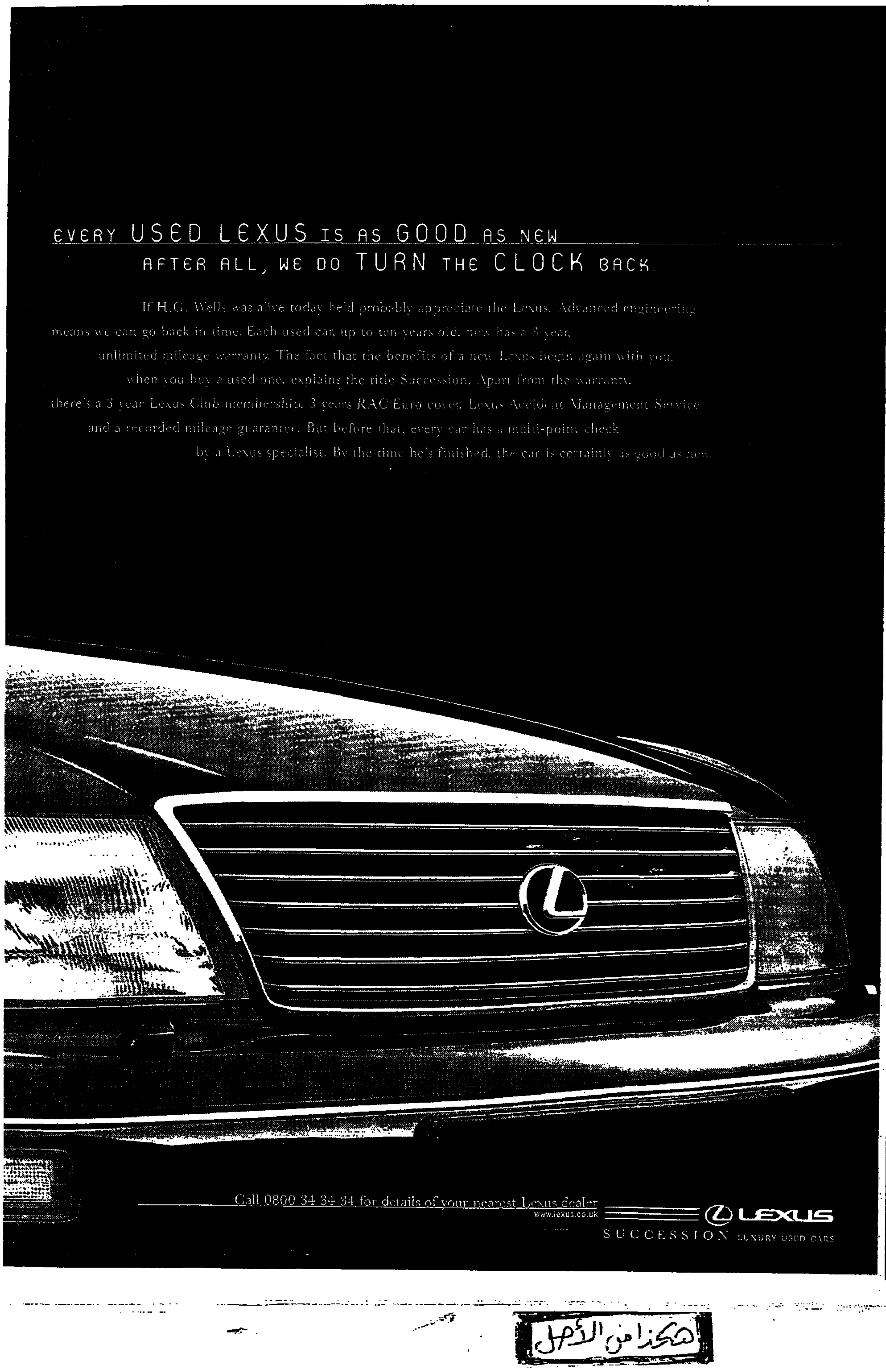
FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

DONATELLA VERSACE led hundreds of New York's glitterati in a lavish tribute to her murdered brother, the designer Gianni Versace, amid hints that the fashion house may soon try to tone down its extravagant image.

Sting serenaded 900 guests who had paid $2,000 (£1,200) a plate to attend the fundraising gala for the Metropolitan Museum's Costume Institute on Monday night. Three thousand stylish latecomers paid $200 just to attend the dance party afterwards in the museum's Egyptian and Chinese galleries.

"We miss him," Ms Versace said of her brother, who was murdered by the serial killer Andrew Cunanan in Miami in July. "He would have loved to be here." Elton John co-chaired the event with Ms Versace and Madonna made a speech. Both Elton John and Madonna disputed reports that they had squabbled with Sting over which of them would perform at the gala. An exhibition of Versace's designs opens at the museum tomorrow.

***The Wall Street Journal* reported yesterday that Ms Versace and the designer's brother, Santo, revealed that they intended to revive a plan to make the company public that was shelved when Versace was murdered. "We needed shock in the beginning to get attention," Ms Versace told the newspaper. "But this is the 90s. We need to be known not just for expensive clothes but for items that are wearable."**



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Rioting strikers clash with Mugabe police

From Jan Raath in Harare

PRESIDENT Mugabe's Government was plunged into crisis yesterday as the most comprehensive strike in Zimbabwe's history paralysed government and the private sector around the country.

Violence erupted in Harare in the morning after riot police, many carrying automatic rifles, met thousands of striking workers streaming into the city centre for a rally. Police met them with baton charges and blanketed streets with teargas fired from the back of speeding trucks.

As strikers fled, mobs of youths responded with volleys of stones and set up barricades of dustbins and metal drums. Large parts of the capital became no-go areas as the violence spread to the poorer townships in the south where mobs, pursued by police, burnt vehicles and closed off roads from the city.

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), which organised the one-day strike, and civic bodies accused the Government of starting the violence. Nearly every other urban centre was closed down by the strike, but only Harare was affected by violence.

The strike was called in protest against taxes imposed a month ago to pay for a Zim$4 billion (£165 million) package of benefits for guerrilla veterans of the Rhodesian war that ended in 1980. Last month MPs of Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu (PF) party voted down the increases in sales tax, income tax and levies on fuel and electricity, but were ignored by the Government. The taxes were promulgated the next day. The huge response to the strike call is seen as having far wider implications than taxes, however. Observers said Mr Mugabe's hold on power had been seriously undermined, and that he would find it difficult to reassert his authority.

Strikers in Mbare township near the city centre shouted: "Give us guns, give us guns."

Claudius Mutere, a driver, said: "We are saying 'Down with Mugabe'. We are fed up with him and Zanu (PF). He has exploited us for 17 years. He must go." He was cheered by a crowd around him at the barricade.

"It is general discontent that is erupting," said Morgan Tsvangirai, secretary-general of the ZCTU. "This is a defining moment for our country."

The value of the Zimbabwe dollar, which collapsed three weeks ago, dropped nearly 20 per cent further yesterday, compounding an economic crisis ascribed largely to Mr Mugabe's recent moves to confiscate nearly 1,500 white-owned farms.

Police were served with a High Court injunction in the morning to prevent them from stopping demonstrations, but their onslaught went on until early afternoon.

"Police created the violence by not allowing people to demonstrate, which is their constitutional right," said Mike Auret, director of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe.

Police cleared the city centre street by street, threatening bystanders with batons.

YANNIS BEHRAKIS / REUTERS

An African delegate lining up with Iranian women at the opening session yesterday of the Islamic conference summit in Tehran

Iran's reformer wins over hardliners

From Michael Theodoulou in Tehran

BACKED by a demonstration of popular support, President Khatami, the moderate elected by Iranians seven months ago, appears to be winning the struggle against his hardline rivals.

Even Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme religious leader long seen as the leading Islamic hardliner, is moving closer to Mr Khatami's reformist camp.

The two had been at loggerheads since the President won a landslide victory, signalling intense popular frustration with the social restrictions of the Islamic state. Now there is talk that Ayatollah Khamenei might transfer some of his powers to the executive. This could mark a turning point in the Islamic revolution that began 18 years ago.

"More and more important officials are rallying round Khatami, and Khamenei is becoming isolated," a European diplomat said. "I do not rule out some sort of gentlemen's agreement to share power. Khamenei would dearly love a slice of the President's popularity."

Mr Khatami won 70 per cent of the vote in May on a platform of tolerance and respect for the rule of law. Many here compare that result with a second revolution. "At least, you could call it a dramatic evolution," said Ibrahim Yazdi, the leader of an opposition party.

While Ayatollah Khamenei had shunted aside the President to address the opening session of yesterday's Islamic conference summit in Tehran with an attack on Israel and the West's "carnal desires" and "gluttony", he also remarked on Mr Khatami's "brilliant election victory." There may have been more to the unexpected tribute than merely an attempt to boost the façade of unity before leaders from 55 Islamic states. Mr Khatami, in turn, delivered a starkly contrasting message, arguing that Islamic civil society and its Western counterpart were not necessarily in conflict.

"The democratic forces in our society are now so strong they may well be too powerful to resist," said Dr Farideh Farih, an American-educated political analyst.

Mr Khatami's popularity is not confined to the general public. He also enjoys wide support in the key holy city of Qom.

While huge, stern-faced murals of the late Ayatollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Khamenei cover the sides of many office blocks, Mr Khatami refuses to have his portrait reproduced on public buildings. Instead, his face beams from the pictures that people display in their homes.

"While the conservatives would love to turn the clock back, there is little threat of violence," said a diplomat from a Nato country. "The more immediate threat is of disillusionment and an even greater desire among people to emigrate if Mr Khatami is not allowed to deliver."

Mahathir calls West 'meddlers'

Tehran: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, has criticised Western democracies for meddling in the affairs of Islamic countries, sheltering their dissidents and forcing them into economic submission.

"They accuse our countries in particular of abusing human rights, of terrorism, of mismanaging our countries, of environmental degradation," he said in a speech released yesterday at the Islamic summit in Tehran. "With their NGOs [non-governmental organisations], they are able to actively interfere in our affairs, instigating our people to violence against our Government and against each other," he said. "They give refuge to those of our people who promote disruptive activities in our countries." Dr Mahathir said Western concepts of democracy were "no better than the feudalistic theocratic states which preceded them". He has blamed foreign speculators for recent turmoil in Malaysia's markets. ***(Reuters)***

UN gives warning on Islamic terror

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday warned Islamic countries not to allow extremists to resort to violence and terror in the name of Islam.

"They are sullying the image of a religion whose very name signifies peace," he told the Islamic Conference in Tehran. He called on the presidents, princes and ministers representing the conference's 55 member states to restore tolerance and justice "to their rightful places in your societies".

His call, a barely concealed appeal to Iran's hardline clergy to cease their support for terrorist organisations, came amid tough criticism of the Taleban and other warring factions in Afghanistan. He said it was heartening that recent talks in Cairo might lead to a transitional government in Somalia. He also welcomed the signing of Tajik peace accords in Moscow. But he had harsher words for the factions in Afghanistan.

"Why? Because too many groups in Afghanistan — warlords, terrorists, drug dealers and others — appear to have too much to gain from war and too much to lose from peace and the rule of law." Afghanistan's seat at the conference was empty.

Mr Annan called on Islamic nations, representing about a billion people, to join the United Nations as a partner in promoting peace and prosperity. The UN was committed to that vision but could not act alone.

Mr Annan's call for an end to Islamic terrorism was supported by Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. He said that the Muslim world was still suffering from fragmentation and disruption and was going through the worst as a result of "extensive militancy which has shed innocent Muslim blood in the name of Islam".

☐ **Cairo:** The militant Gamaa al-Islamiya group in Egypt denied it had vowed to halt attacks on the country's tourism industry, highlighting a reported split in the organisation. *(Reuters)*

Gandhi spurns political role

Humiliated Congress fails to win support of the widow with a magical name, writes **Christopher Thomas**

SONIA GANDHI, a brooding presence over Indian politics, was 50 yesterday — a day she spent in typical isolation from the sycophantic politicians seeking to abase themselves at her large and magnificent bungalow in central Delhi. She barely conceals her disgust for them.

Mrs Gandhi has a magical name that Congress wants her to use in the coming general election to save it from an electorate alienated by shabby and calamitous bids for power, resulting in the unnecessary downfall last week of the United Front coalition Government.

But she retains a haughty distance, never saying anything significant in public and rarely, indeed, in private with the nation's most powerful men — except to tell them to leave her alone and sort out their problems without her. But senior members of Congress consistently humiliate themselves by begging her to enter politics, or at least to campaign actively in the election, due by March. They are dismissed with sphinx-like silence.

Her unsmiling, dark-spirited demeanour has led magazines and newspapers to dub her Mona Lisa, for want of a better label to hang on this mysteriously uncommunicative woman. Only once has she given an interview, and that was years ago. Since Rajiv Gandhi, her husband, was assassinated in 1991, she has preoccupied herself with polishing his reputation, mostly through the lavishly funded Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.

Sonia Gandhi: dubbed Mona Lisa

The Italian-born Mrs Gandhi wears only saris in public, and used to sport a red *tikka* on her forehead until her husband's assassination; widows do not wear the adornment. But she has failed to Indianise herself in the public mind, and she might become an electoral liability if she did enter active politics. She does not seem tough enough for the mauling she would get from opponents because of her foreign origins.

It is obvious after so long that she has no intention of entering politics, but Congress leaders continue to believe that her beauty and her name could inject glamour and life into a moribund organisation.

She cares about politics only when it touches her personally or threatens to despoil her husband's name. Her life's mission is to dignify the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty. She is its guardian and preserver: it could yet be revived by her daughter, Priyanka, but apparently not yet.

Mrs Gandhi's disdain for most politicians shows even in photographs of her in the company of some of the most powerful men in India, many of them tarnished by corruption.

The culture of high-level personal corruption began with Indira Gandhi, as did the slow death of Congress. But that is not Sonia Gandhi's version of the past, which she idealises. She hated politics, and made her husband pledge before they were married that he would never get involved. When he broke his word, she was devastated. In a rare personal comment in a book of family photographs, she wrote: "For the first time in the 15 years that we had known each other, there was tension between Rajiv and me. I fought like a tigress — for him, for us, for our children, for the life we had made together, for his flying, which he loved, for our uncomplicated, easy friendships and, above all, for our freedom."

Dreams of distant lands ease pain of the tallest man in the world

From Christopher Thomas in Islamabad

THE world's tallest man, lying on two beds placed end to end, is critically ill in a Pakistani hospital. His massive hands and feet are swollen, his eyes red and half closed from two sleepless nights weeping in pain. "It is a blessing from God to be so tall," he says. "And a curse."

Alam Channa, 43, grew until he was 28, reaching 7ft 8in. He weighs more than 28 stone. He cannot walk, can barely talk and can be saved only by surgery too sophisticated for the limited medical facilities of Pakistan.

He lies in a windowless basement room, with four constant attendants and companions, and professes two ambitions: to get well, and to visit the grave of Diana, Princess of Wales. Mr Channa would find it impossible to fit into an ordinary airline seat and, besides, he has no money for the fare. But he says his constant dreams of this odyssey sustain him.

The Pakistani Government has deposited $10,000 (£6,000) with its Washington embassy towards the $80,000 needed to save Mr Channa's life and enable him to walk again. The American Embassy in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, seeks assurances that the balance will be met through government or private donations before it grants a visa. Meanwhile, time runs out.

As he waits, there are rumours that the Government put pressure on local doctors to perform surgery — which Mr Channa refused at the last minute — to prove their prowess before an international audience and that his companions persuaded him to reject local surgery in the hope of benefiting from international donations.

Mr Channa worked for the state-owned Pakistan television network, PTV, which has so far paid around £7,100 in hospital fees. One kidney has failed, the other is deteriorating and he is diabetic. He has severe bladder problems and requires spinal surgery because of a problem directly related to his size. He had an over-active pituitary gland that produced excessive amounts of growth hormone.

Alam Channa on his double bed in Islamabad

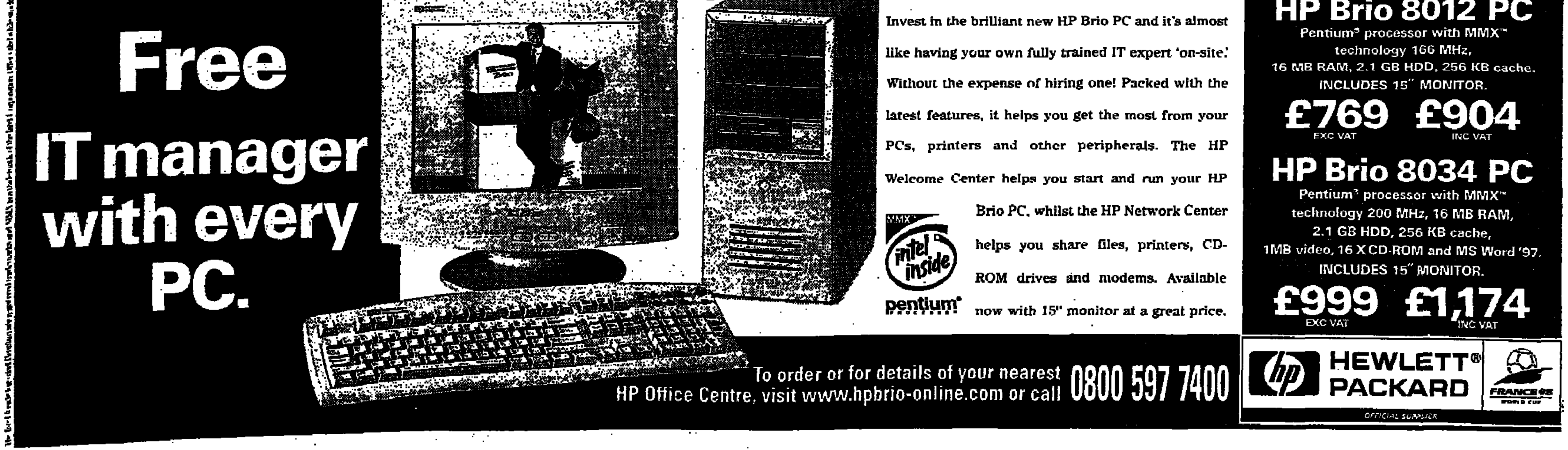
He has hardly moved since August, when he was admitted to hospital.

He is not aware that he shares an entry in *The Guinness Book of Records* with Gul Mohammed, an Indian, also Muslim, who died recently — the world's shortest man. At 22.5in Gul Mohammed would barely have reached his kneecap.

Inaam Channa, a nephew, complained that his uncle was receiving "care but not treatment" in Pakistan, and should be moved urgently to the Virginia Urology Centre in the United States, at government expense.

There has been a recent austerity drive but, raising his hand in reproof, Mr Channa urges his companions not to criticise his Government. Whatever happens, he adds, is the will of Allah.

Speaking haltingly, he blamed the start of his troubles on a bad car accident in 1988; in 1995 another crash exacerbated his back problems. He is married with one grown-up child, a son, who is average height. "I am glad he is not like me," he says.



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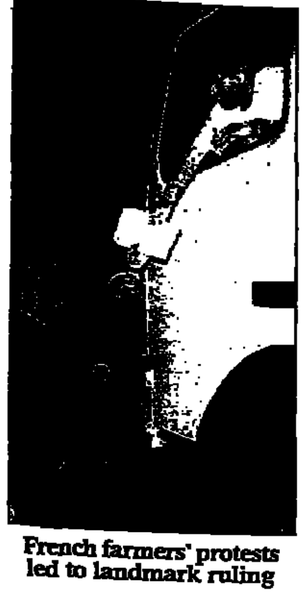
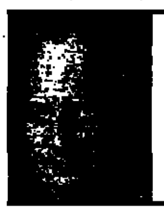
European judges condemn France for failing to halt lorry boycott


French farmers' protests led to landmark ruling


Charles Bremner in Brussels reports on a judgment seen as a win for British hauliers, but their joy may be short-lived

THE European Court of Justice yesterday issued a landmark judgment against the French Government for years of failure to prevent protesting farmers from disrupting the flow of fruit and vegetables from Spain.

The ruling, which condemns France unequivocally for breaching the rules of the single market, bolsters the case for claims against states where protesters block the passage of goods from other EU countries. The French authorities had "manifestly and persistently abstained" from taking action against demonstrating farmers, said the Luxembourg judges.

France was ordered to pay costs. While no other immediate consequence follows the ruling, its makes the French authorities more vulnerable to damage suits in national courts and will speed potential legal action in Luxembourg.

The decision was a victory for Britain, which joined the Commission and Spain in taking France to court. However, in a touch of irony, Britain could feature in an early test of the EU jurisprudence. Irish farmers and hauliers are seeking compensation for losses suffered when farmers turned meat away from British ports this month.

The judges' decision arrived at the Commission yesterday at the same time as a letter from Lord Simon of Highbury, the Trade Minister, defending Britain against charges that the authorities had failed to act against the protesting farmers. The Commission last week gave Britain five days to respond to the allegations from Ireland after the port protests. Lord Simon reassured Mario Monti, the Commissioner for the Single Market, that "the Government takes a threat of disruption to trade extremely seriously ... Peaceful demonstration is acceptable, but attempts to prevent individuals going about their lawful business are not." The Government was taking steps yesterday to ensure that enough police were on hand, Lord Simon said. Commission officials said they had been reassured, but further proceedings were possible.

The French Government said only that it was not surprised by the ruling in Luxembourg. The Commission hailed it as confirmation that national authorities were breaking European law if they failed to stop protesters interfering with the flow of goods. "This will set a precedent and give a strong signal for the future," said the spokeswoman for Signor Monti. Claims for damages must be handled by national courts, which will have to take account of the EU ruling. Ultimately, the decision also makes it easier for the Commission to seek rapid EU court action to halt French-type protests.

France is under pressure from Britain and other states for its failure to settle more than a tiny fraction of the damage claims made by victims of the 1996 lorry drivers' strike and faces a fresh batch from last month's week-long disruption by lorry drivers.

The Luxembourg case sprang from the Commission's exasperation over the persistent inaction of the French police against the Coordination Rurale, the militant farmers' organisation, when it staged violent raids on lorries carrying Spanish strawberries and other produce between 1993 and 1995.

In stinging language, the judges rejected all of France's arguments that it had been doing its best, in difficult circumstances and that the police had often held back for fear of sparking more violence by the protesters. "The French Government has adduced no concrete evidence proving the existence of a danger to public order with which it could not cope," it said. The judges deplored the police failure to intervene, "even where they far outnumbered the perpetrators".

In his letter to the Commission, Lord Simon said the Government knew of only one episode of violent farmers' protest that had "apparently threatened" the import of beef products from Ireland. This had occurred in Holyhead. "The police have said they will take action against the perpetrators if there is sufficient evidence to do so," he said.

☐ **Santer angered:** Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, has been angered by a decision by Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the monetary affairs Commissioner, to embark on a political career in France at a critical moment in preparations for the launch of the single currency.

M de Silguy, 49, has accepted an invitation from Gaullist party leaders to present himself as candidate for the presidency of the regional government of Britanny.

Yeltsin aides hoard cash in secret accounts

Cash corruption scandal involves ministers and generals, writes **Richard Beeston**

THE Russian ruling elite was plunged into another potentially damaging corruption scandal yesterday after details emerged about secret bank accounts held by dozens of senior figures in government.

In the wake of last month's scandal, which led to the dismissal of four prominent reformers who received large advances for an unpublished book, a Moscow newspaper has revealed how more than 70 people, including ministers, generals and diplomats, held hundreds of thousands of pounds in a shady Moscow bank.

According to *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, which acquired a copy of the list from the prosecutor's office, the compromising evidence was discovered after investigators searched the offices of the chairman of the Rato Bank and found the names of account holders in a safe deposit-box.

"The investigators were dumbfounded to see the names and sums deposited," wrote Aleksandr Khinstein, an investigative reporter who broke the story.

"Many of the people were household names in Russia. They give interviews to the media on how to improve the situation in the country and receive medals from the President. They are ministers, close assistants to President Yeltsin, generals of the Federal Security Service, and even one deputy prime minister."

Among the depositors listed were General Anatoli Kruglov, head of the State Customs Committee, who with his wife held more than £75,000; Vasili Vinogradov, chief of the consular department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and now the Ambassador to Australia, with more than £25,000; Valentin Kovalyov, the former Justice Minister, sacked over a sex scandal in June, with £160,000; and General Starovoitov, chief of the Federal Communications and Information Agency, who with his wife had £150,000.

There was no evidence to suggest that the amounts in the accounts were obtained illegally, but the sums were large in a country where Cabinet ministers are paid only about £600 a month.

The accounts also raised suspicions because they were held in secrecy. Depositors never actually visited the bank and only one highly trusted employee was charged with dealing with the account holders.

Vitali Rats, a spokesman for General Kruglov, admitted the existence of the account, but insisted nothing was improper. "He put a certain amount of money in this bank account for two years and received interest. The leadership is aware of the situation and thinks that it is perfectly legal," Mr Rats said.

President Yeltsin may take a different view. Earlier this year, in an attempt to root out corruption, he forced top officials to disclose their personal wealth. In September he repeated his pledge to crack down on graft and bribery, which is so common that the country recently came top in the world league of corrupt states.

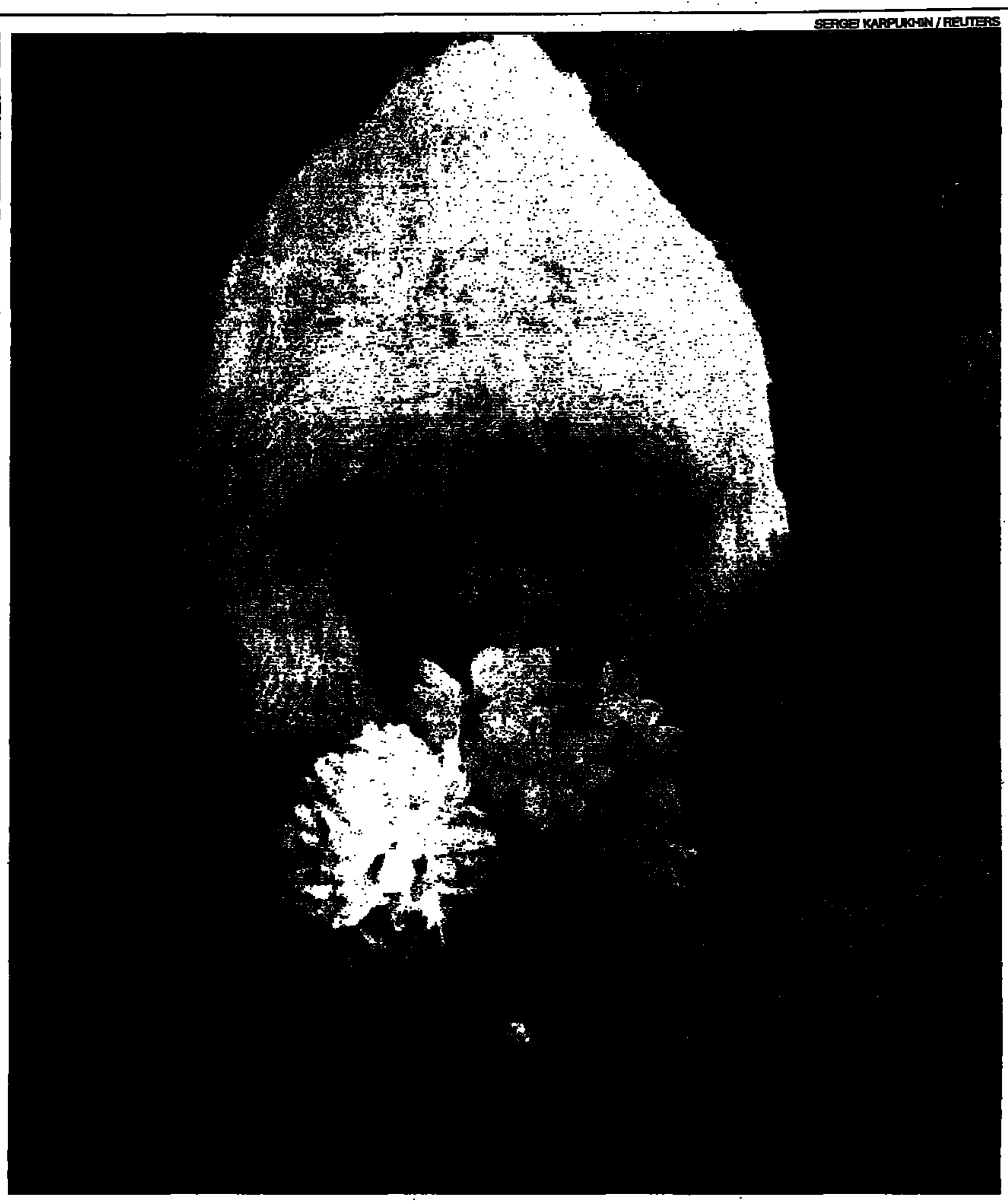
The military, where theft and corruption are rampant, has been the main target of the Government's efforts and several senior generals and admirals have been charged and punished.

The first real sign of action in the Kremlin came last month when Mr Yeltsin sacked four senior figures in his Government for "unethical" behaviour in accepting £55,000 each from a publisher's owned by one of the country's largest banks.

While at the time the move was applauded as a blow against corruption, the latest evidence suggests that the sums involved were relatively small compared with what other officials at every level of government have been quietly amassing.

☐ **Jail order:** A Moscow city court ruled that a general who was once an adviser to President Yeltsin must remain in prison while a corruption investigation is going on. Konstantin Kobets was arrested in May and charged with taking a substantial bribe from a construction company in exchange for a military housing contract. *(AP)*

SERGEI KARPUKHIN / REUTERS


Anya Shashkina crying at the funeral yesterday of her younger sister, Lyudmila, nine, who was among more than 80 people who died in the Irkutsk cargo plane disaster at the weekend. Lyudmila and another child buried yesterday, Yana Potanina, were in state care after family breakdowns and were watching television when the Antonov An-124 crashed in a fireball next to the hostel where they lived. Galina Kryukova, the home's director, said: "The first impact caught them. They died instantly." Another 140 children were evacuated safely. Some of them laid flowers as their friends were buried in sunshine at a snowbound cemetery. *(Reuters)*

Russians 'asked for fresh IMF handout'

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A SENIOR government economist revealed yesterday that Russia held talks with the International Monetary Fund on an emergency package to prevent the collapse of the economy.

Yevgeni Yasin, the Minister without Portfolio, said the discussions focused on new financial support, like that devised to help South Korea out of its economic crisis. In the event the measures had not been necessary, he said.

Last week officials expressed fears about a financial collapse after a run on the rouble. Confidence fell further when the IMF announced that it was withholding payment of this month's $700 million (£415 million) quarterly instalment of a $5.6 billion loan to Russia, because of the Government's shortfall in tax collection.

The Government weathered the crisis and confidence among investors returned. This was due partly to President Yeltsin's success in persuading the Communist-dominated State Duma to approve the first reading of next year's budget. The parliament is due to give a second reading on December 18.

Investors are also understood to be encouraged by Mr Yeltsin's apparent decision not to take any further action against his economic team. Last month he reprimanded Anatoli Chubais, the First Deputy Prime Minister, and stripped him of the additional portfolio of Finance Minister, because of his acceptance of a £60,000 book advance.

Opposition leaders maintained that the advance amounted to a bribe from a bank linked with the publishing company.

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CHANGING TIMES

Spain told of plot to kill King

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

SPAIN'S secret services prevented a 1985 coup that would have started with the assassination at a parade of King Juan Carlos, his family and the former Prime Minister, Felipe González. *El País* yesterday gave details of the plot to blow up the stand from which the King, Government members and generals would have viewed the parade in La Coruña, north Spain.

The King became the prime target for rebel officers after his intervention proved crucial in quashing a coup attempt in 1981, according to one of the conspirators.

The planned killing was inspired by the 1981 assassination of the Egyptian President Sadat and the killing of Franco's Prime Minister, Luis Carrero Blanco, by Eta, the Basque separatist group, in 1973. The plotters planned to dig a tunnel from a nearby building to the stand: enough explosives would have been placed in the tunnel to kill King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofía, their two daughters, Señor González, Narcís Serra, his Defence Minister, and a dozen army officers.

El País said two right-wing army colonels led the plot. The imprisoned leaders of the 1981 coup, Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch and Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero, were told of the plan. During the first coup attempt Lieutenant-Colonel Tejero stormed parliament and Lieutenant-General Milans del Bosch ordered his tanks on to the streets of Valencia.

One of the plotters said they considered calling on an unnamed lieutenant-general still in active service to lead the dictatorship that would have taken over. The plot was discovered two months before the parade when one of the conspirators, apparently appalled by the prospect of so much bloodshed, told the military intelligence service. Señor González's Socialist Government decided that, rather than arrest the conspirators, it would warn them that their plan had been discovered. "We saw no reason to turn them into martyrs for their cause," a former Socialist minister said.

One of the colonels who allegedly led the plot was Ricardo Sáenz de Ynestrillas, assassinated by Eta in 1986. The other alleged leader was named as Colonel Ignacio Gasca Quintana, 56, who retired last year. There have now been at least three plots to assassinate the King.

A gun-waving Tejero exhorts MPs in his 1981 coup bid

Jobless rise deals new blow to Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE number of German unemployed rose again last month, edging closer to what economists and politicians believe will be a peak of 5 million by the end of winter. That figure, capping months of postwar record highs, would deal a serious blow to the re-election chances of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The pan-German unemployment rate is now 11.8 per cent. About 11,000 Germans joined the dole queue in November, bringing the seasonally adjusted figure to 4.5 million. Bernhard Jogoda, the Federal Labour Office president, believes there are signs that unemployment is gradually levelling off — better, mainly export-led, growth in the West is beginning to make an impact but still not enough to cancel out the miserable situation in eastern Germany. The construction slump and the end of government job-creation schemes have pushed up unemployment in the east to 1.47 million. Herr Jagoda's hope is that the west will continue to improve as growth reaches an annual 2.5 per cent by the end of the year; the best hope for the east is that the job market stabilises. "There are signs that the bottom is gradually being reached even though we still have to wait for a fundamental improvement," Herr Jagoda said.

Yet Herr Jagoda cannot exclude the possibility that the current trend will lead to a February peak of 5 million out of work. In 1997 the winter-end peak was about 4.7 million, breaking all postwar records and doing much to derail public finances and public confidence in the Kohl Government. With some positive results slowly trickling in, the German leader has been able to stem the loss of trust in his economic management skills. But the trend, this time from a much higher base rate of unemployment, may repeat itself this winter.

Italian TV converted by the power of religion

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

WITH ratings for game shows, variety shows and quizzes sliding badly, Italian television executives are turning to a new audience-winner to bring back the viewers — religion.

"Not so much Madonna, more The Madonna," said an executive after Channel 5, a commercial channel, drew a record number of viewers for an evening prime-time drama on the miraculous appearance of the Virgin Mary to three Portuguese children in 1917. The visions are celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church because of the "three secrets" the Madonna is said to have confided to the children, involving forecasts of 20th-century wars and the fall of communism in Russia. To the delight of Fabrizio Costa, the director, *Fatima*, broadcast to mark The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, topped the evening's viewing figures with an audience of seven and a half million, a million more than its nearest rival, an "action film" on the state-run channel, RAI.

The role of Mary was played by Randi Ingerman, an actress and model who poses nude for calendars and normally appears in revealing outfits on the kind of game show Italians are turning off in droves. "I did not find it difficult to transform myself into the the Virgin Mary," she said. "I do have a spiritual side." RAI hit back with a special broadcast on the Vatican's preparations for the millennium and a documentary on miracles at Lourdes.

The turn towards religion began when a documentary on RAI's second channel on Padre Pio, the late Italian friar whom the Pope hopes to canonised, drew a bigger audience than a raft of blockbuster American films on rival channels.

Television executives sat up and took notice. "They have long known that a televised Mass has the same effect on the ratings as a Cup Final, guaranteed to obtain a 30 per cent audience share," observed *Panorama* magazine. But it said the present glut of Christian themes was "clearly a deliberate marketing ploy". The series culminates in a televised Christmas concert from the Lower Church of the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi, reopened after the earthquakes in September. "Christmas has come early on Italian TV," said *Corriere della Sera*. Signor Costa said Italians were increasingly conscious that the millennium was just round the corner, and "the desire for spirituality is on the increase". Vatican officials agree, pointing out that it already has its own television channel and a "Social Communications Unit", which oversees projects. "TV brings religion into people's homes even more effectively than gospellers on the doorstep," an official said.

On Christmas Eve, one of Italy's leading journalists, Enzo Biagio, is presenting *The Story of a Child called Jesus*; other programmes in the pipeline include *A hundred Kilometres of History: Sacred Texts from the Vatican Archives*.

Not all critics are impressed: *Corriere della Sera* said *Fatima*'s slick production values had made it look like "an advert for sliced white bread".

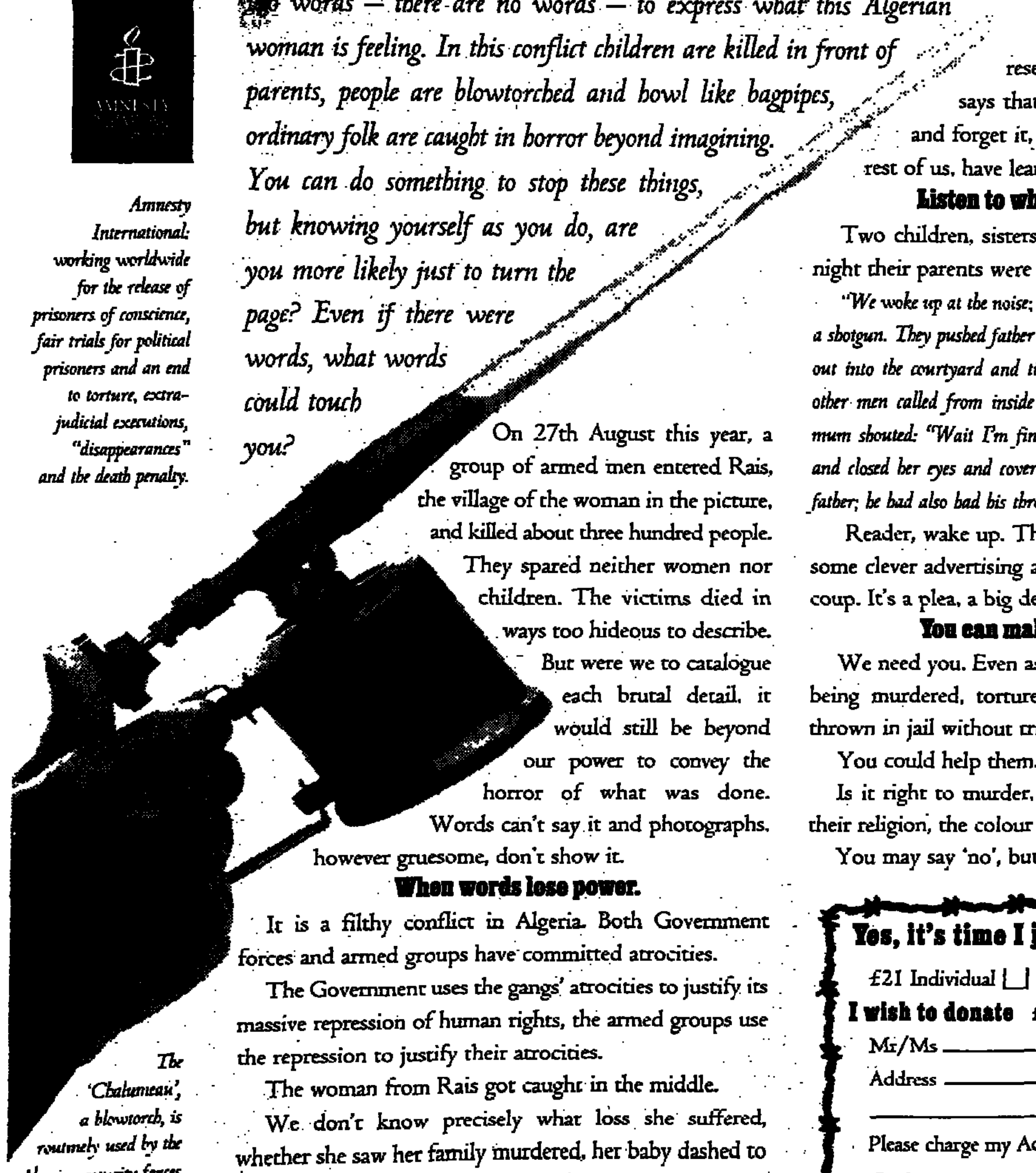
هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الإصل

Write your own bloody headline.

Amnesty International: working worldwide for the release of prisoners of conscience, fair trials for political prisoners and an end to torture, extra-judicial executions, "disappearances" and the death penalty.

No words — there are no words — to express what this Algerian woman is feeling. In this conflict children are killed in front of parents, people are blowtorched and howl like bagpipes, ordinary folk are caught in horror beyond imagining. You can do something to stop these things, but knowing yourself as you do, are you more likely just to turn the page? Even if there were words, what words could touch you?



The 'Chalumeau', a blowtorch, is routinely used by the Algerian security forces to make suspects 'sing'.

Main picture: Distraught survior of a massacre carried out at Sidi Rais village by an armed group.

On 27th August this year, a group of armed men entered Rais, the village of the woman in the picture, and killed about three hundred people. They spared neither women nor children. The victims died in ways too hideous to describe. But were we to catalogue each brutal detail, it would still be beyond our power to convey the horror of what was done. Words can't say it and photographs, however gruesome, don't show it.

When words lose power.

It is a filthy conflict in Algeria. Both Government forces and armed groups have committed atrocities.

The Government uses the gangs' atrocities to justify its massive repression of human rights, the armed groups use the repression to justify their atrocities.

The woman from Rais got caught in the middle.

We don't know precisely what loss she suffered, whether she saw her family murdered, her baby dashed to its death, her small daughter disembowelled, her mother's head rolling in the dust.

All these things have happened, if not to this woman, to others just as uninvolved, helpless and anguished. The words on the picture come from the opening paragraph of Amnesty International's latest report on Algeria. We have become used to seeing words like these in our newspapers.

Shocking headlines no longer touch us. We're not moved, we resent being manipulated. Experience says that you'll read this page, turn over and forget it, because this is how you, like the rest of us, have learned to cope with clamouring ads.

Listen to what the children said.

Two children, sisters of 11 and 13, spoke about the night their parents were killed.

"We woke up at the noise; some armed men were hitting father with a shotgun. They pushed father into the kitchen and the others took mum out into the courtyard and tied her hands. They cut her throat. The other men called from inside the house and the one who slaughtered mum shouted: "Wait I'm finishing". We pulled mum into the house and closed her eyes and covered her with a blanket, and also covered father; he had also had his throat cut. We cried and screamed."

Reader, wake up. This isn't a game of words. It isn't some clever advertising agency trying to score a 'creative' coup. It's a plea, a big desperate one, for your help.

You can make a big difference.

We need you. Even as you are reading this, people are being murdered, tortured, being made to "disappear", thrown in jail without trial.

You could help them. Why won't you?

Is it right to murder, torture, or imprison people for their religion, the colour of their skin or beliefs?

You may say 'no', but unless you stand up for human rights, you might as well say 'yes'.

Amnesty International was founded on the idea that ordinary people *can* make a difference in the world, *can* help to stop murder, torture and other abuse of human rights. Since our foundation in 1961, we have proved over and over and over that we *can* help.

Amnesty is international.

Do you dislike the idea of western liberals laying down the moral law to the rest of the world?

Good, so do we. Amnesty International is a worldwide organisation with members in just about every country on earth. In some places our members risk their lives to stand up for human rights. And people in that deadly danger are standing up for *your* human rights, whether or not you choose to recognise the fact.

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After the Second World War, the world's nations signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since then every single one of them has at some time broken its promise to defend and not abuse human rights.

Only one voice in the world is strong enough to force politicians to keep their promises. Yours.

But only you can convince yourself that you want to stand up for other people's human rights.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Safe, secure – and satisfying

Sarah Johnson found there were unexpected benefits to giving birth at home. It was relaxed, happy — and no stranger could have whisked her baby away

The junior register office clerk was unhappy. "The baby was born at home?" he repeated. The concept did not seem to fit on the form he was filling in. "Well, the midwives came from Queen Charlotte's," Daniel, my husband, added, to reassure him that this was not a completely amateur job. The clerk cheered up and filled in his form. Ten minutes later a routine phone call had been put through to the hospital and Dan was summoned before the top clerk. "There is no record at Queen Charlotte's of this baby," he was told severely.

Dan stuck to his story. "She was born *at home*." In the very room she has slept in since she was born last month; into the heart of her family. No stranger could have whisked her away like little Karli Hawthorne.

At home? Our friends and neighbours already suspected we were mad, because we *wanted four children* — now they had concrete proof.

No one expects babies to be born at home — Helga, our midwife, thoughtfully provided us with a hospital wrist tag and cot label so we would not feel deprived.

> Agatha landed with a squelch on to an old duvet

Childbirth is too important to be subject to fashion, but it is. Ten years ago fathers boasted that they had helped their children to be born; now they boast that they were playing football at the time. The present vogue is to avoid pain at all costs and to embrace technology — "What about your epidural?" said one chap, wonderingly, as if it were as natural a part of giving birth as a vagina.

One relative, steeped in Freud, warned that our three older children would be deeply traumatised by hearing me groaning in labour. And what about the *mess*?

From the National Health Service point of view, home births are very cheap. As my preparations mounted up, I could see why. We would be using my sheets, my towels, my washing machine — and my electricity if Helga the midwife needed any of the heavy equipment for reviving babies and pacifying mothers, which she lugged gallantly up to my bedroom in the small hours one morning last month. We would be cooking and eating our own food. As I fixed a special light over our nappy changing table (for examining the newborn in correct hospital-style conditions) and queued in Homebase with a stack of plastic decorators' sheets to protect the carpets, I felt downright patriotic to think of how much I was saving the taxpayer.

No one should think of a home birth unless they can plan ahead and rely on two or three people for support. Home birth does not rule out pethidine, gas-and-air or TENS, but I have never gone in much for pain relief since a remarkable Alexander Technique teacher and midwife, Ilana Machover, taught me how to make the best of labour pain (in a nutshell: don't fight the pain — go with it — keep upright — move about). With three successful NVDs (Normal Vaginal Deliveries) under my belt, so to speak, I had a good chance of things going right, and if things went wrong the midwife had the knowledge and equipment to safeguard the baby until I reached the hospital ten minutes away.

But my chief reason was that I hate being moved during labour. What other mammal is daft enough to jump into a car and drive for miles with painful contractions? Animals in labour snuggle down into a nest and stay put. Women often say: "As soon as I got to the hospital the contractions stopped. They wanted to send me home . . ."

The truth is that the trauma of a car journey hinders the progress of labour. Maybe this does not distress the baby; but maybe it does. In any case, I had had enough of crawling painfully down hospital corridors. Seven years ago, as I dragged a suitcase downstairs to a waiting taxi, I thought: "There has to be a better way."

This time, I woke at 1am with mild contractions and remained in my bedroom until the job was done. No suitcases, no taxi. At 6am Edith, aged five, woke in her little bedroom next door and complained that someone was going "Uh, Uh", and it was keeping her awake.

An hour later, her new baby sister, Agatha, landed with a gentle squelch on to an old duvet spread on the floor, four miles from the house where her maternal great-grandmother had given birth to my mother 73 years ago.

A birth-circle involving four generations of women was complete. Agatha's great-grandmother died of puerperal fever caused by a careless midwife: by having this baby at home, I felt, I could somehow erase that scar on my mother's life.

Helga and her two colleagues cleared up in minutes. Edith and her brothers Tycho (seven) and Leo (three) were allowed in, a joyful little procession bursting through the door. Yes, they had been concerned about the screams coming from my room — but here Mummy was, sitting up in bed, pale but smiling broadly, with a crumpled little pink baby in her arms. Obviously whatever I had been through was survivable.

The telephone rang — a *Times* sub-editor asking if it was "a convenient moment" to discuss my last story. The odd thing is, it *was* convenient. I was tucked up in bed with Agatha, a delicious breakfast and a sense of pure elation. The awesome simplicity of a home birth was beginning to dawn on us.

For the next three days and nights I slept better than I had for weeks. No hospital bathrooms with their bloodstained floors and erratic hot water supply. No hospital food. I heard no strange babies crying, no constant footsteps in the ward. No large, noisy families partying for hours round the bed next door. No tragic, distant sobbing in the night.

Pottering round my bedroom on the third day, I thought of the discomforts of coming home after a hospital birth: repacking the suitcase, rushing to the phone, guiltily wrapping flowers in newspaper, wishing I had more loose change, more time, more energy, less luggage, more pairs of arms.

Once home, the house would seem untidy and cold. This time was different. Agatha belonged to the house, and it to her. Instead of snapping at visitors, I welcomed them. The champagne flowed, and little Agatha slipped without a splash into the river of our lives.

● *References: Sheila Kitzinger:* Homebirth, *Dorling Kindersley, 1995, ISBN 075130165. Nicky Wesson:* Home Birth, *Vermilion, 1996, ISBN 009181251. Ilana Machover and Angela and Jonathan Drake:* The Alexander Technique Birth Book, *Robinson, 1993, ISBN 1854871862*

EUGENE RICHARDS / MAGNUM

Childbirth is too important to be subject to fashion, but it is. Ten years ago fathers boasted that they had helped their children to be born; now they boast that they were playing football

Labouring under a disadvantage

New mothers are too exhausted to be left alone with their babies, says **Virginia Hume**

Amid all the uproar about security at maternity hospitals following the abduction of baby Karli Hawthorne from her sleeping mother's bedside in Basildon General, one question remains to be asked. Why was a woman who was exhausted and under sedation after a major operation, a Caesarean section, left to look after her baby?

Details of policy differ from one hospital to another, but my experience, and that of many of the women I have interviewed, suggests that these days it is common practice to leave the new mother to "get on with it" almost regardless of her condition.

"After my Caesarean, I was completely disoriented and could think only about sleep," one typical new mother told me. "After nine months of getting excited about the baby arriving, when it finally happened I could not even raise the energy to look at him properly.

"He kept crying and eventually, out of desperation, I asked a nurse to look after him for an hour or two while I caught up on some sleep.

"You would have thought that I was deserting my child the way some of the staff responded. They were all very nice and willing to help, but only within their policy guidelines, not to the extent of giving me a break by actually looking after the baby."

I delivered my baby, Stella, after at least 48 hours without sleep, and God knows how many drugs. I was in no fit state to look after myself, let alone a new baby.

But left alone I was, while Dad was chased off home, to return only during visiting hours. At the time of baby Karli's abduction (12.50am), her father had apparently gone to telephone friends and relations to give them the good news of the birth. He would have been very lucky to get much of a look in if he tried to get back to spend time with his new family at that time of night.

The cosy Nineties name for the practice of leaving new mothers alone with their babies is "rooming in". There are two reasons why it is so popular with the medical authorities.

First, you have to "bond" with your baby. This may take months (it takes a long time to get to know a person), but in the medical imagination it really all happens magically within the first few hours of birth, and mother and baby must be left alone for the spell to work.

The other reason is that breastfeeding is *de rigueur* today. And as there are no longer enough staff to bring your baby to you when he is hungry, he must be constantly by your side.

When these two campaigns took hold, hospital managers strapped for cash must have breathed a sigh of relief. No need to staff the nursery properly any more, not when baby needs his mother so much.

As one popular baby care manual puts it: "Rooming in can be ideal . . . since it doesn't leave you dependent on the nursery staff . . . and ensures that no one will sneak a bottle into the infant."

When my mother gave birth to me in the late Fifties, childbirth was rightly considered to be a pretty tiring and debilitating experience for most women. Yes, those hospitals were horrid baby factories, without a breastfeeding counsellor or birthing partner in sight, but they did get something right.

They knew that childbirth was not called labour for nothing. Babies were taken off to the nursery to be cared for by nurses, and mums got ten days' rest before they were considered sufficiently recuperated to look after a newborn without help. This sounds like nirvana to many women giving birth in hospital today.

These days you are expected to be alert and on duty minutes after the big event. You are allowed to fall asleep, but you are expected to wake up again (as I was) half an hour later, then two hours later, then an hour after that and so on — in fact any time the baby cries for the foreseeable future.

Very soon you cannot see farther than the next hour of sleep. We may not have thrown the baby out with the bathwater when we did away with those baby farms, but we sure as hell sent the mother down the plughole.

It is only a short step from saying that everything is the mother's responsibility to saying that everything is her fault. No surprise, then, to find that within hours of Karli's safe return, a Sunday tabloid was quoting the baby's grandfather accusing Denise Hawthorne of not being a good enough mother.

The suggestion that the maternity care provided for mothers might not be good enough did not get a mention.

In our anxious age, the upshot of the baby Karli affair will be that many more women going into hospital to have babies will be terrified that somebody might come into their room in the middle of the night and take their newborn away from them. Meanwhile, a lot of exhausted women coming out of the maternity ward will be wishing that a midwife could have done just that.

ARTS

It's now-or-never day for Lord Rogers's sensational 'wave' glass roof for London's South Bank Centre. Marcus Binney investigates

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Why I side with the mob over Hindley

Nigella Lawson

In theory, it is a perfectly respectable argument. Why *shouldn't* Myra Hindley be freed? As her lawyers point out, she's now served 31 years and no one is seriously suggesting that, if released, she would commit any further crimes: justice is not served, it is concluded, by continuing to refuse her parole.

But if there's a good argument why she should be freed, it's hard to think of any reason. It is hard, even, to imagine why anyone should want to try to think of one. As it happens, I admire Hindley's barrister, Edward Fitzgerald, QC, immensely. He is a good man, as well as a clever one, and this is a rarity among his profession. Many of those who take up controversial causes do so because they want to bludgeon us with the unforeseen brilliance of their argument, to make their name, go on the telly: I would swear that none of this is what motivates Fitzgerald here. Simply, he believes in justice and in doing the right thing.

I am not such a good person, and am happy enough to do the wrong thing if it seems right to me. Every principle of justice that I believe in is denied by denying Hindley parole, and yet I would still deny it her. It may be intellectually flabby and morally primitive to cleave to some instinct for natural justice rather than listen to the unemotional rationales of the lawyers, but there are worse things to be, in either case.

Many of those who have sought to defend Hindley say that there is an inherent sexism in the attacks against her. No one, they point out, cares as much about Ian Brady. Well, that's true. (Though it's not just her sex: in part, the public feel that at least he has had the decency to go mad; her coldly reckoning, petulant and insistent sanity is what, among other things, chills.) Some are critical of the fact that she's been turned into some symbol of evil, no longer considered a person with the rights of the rest of us, a person who's served time and therefore deserves to be forgiven. Undeniable also. Others complain that she has been the victim of reactionary populism: politicians want to satisfy the blood-hunger of the public and keeping Hindley in jail is an easy way of doing that.

But so what if all three allegations are correct? How great, really, is the assault on justice, real justice?

And frankly, she is not a good witness for her own defence. She whines. She wheedles. She can't see what any of us are getting at. When she wrote an article, purportedly to put her case, to apologise for what she'd done and explain why she no longer needed to be punished, the best she could do was to say that Myra Hindley of the Moors Murders was not Myra Hindly she was today. Except she didn't quite manage to say what she'd done. It was just as if "something" *had happened*, but it wouldn't have been nice to mention what that something was.

More: it was as if the rest of us were being indelicate for forcing her attention back to it. Forget about the past being a different country: for her the past is a different person — so how can she, the person she is now, be held accountable?

Does this sound like someone who has paid her debt to society? I grant the idea of paying a debt to society is a quaint one, and in most cases downright archaic. But in hers it is different, in hers, the phrase fits. Society really does condemn her; the public truly finds her unacceptable. On her side, she doesn't want to be forgiven, she wants to be freed.

In this, I would prefer to ally myself to the vulgar mob than to the best legal minds: there is more honour in it.

BBC

The two fat ladies Clarissa Dickson Wright, left, and Jennifer Paterson: oblivious to the fear of fat

A little of what you fancy does you good

WHAT I want to know is how much money did the Two Fat Ladies pay the Consumers' Association? You couldn't buy publicity this good. A bunch of dried-up puritans announce that your food is wicked and sinful and will lead us into bad ways. Delia Smith, who also comes in for criticism, is probably less pleased at the slur. After all, even if she isn't quite the nation's nanny, she is, we've always been led to believe, the calm voice of safety: never excessive, a person to trust.

Not that *Health Which?* seems to have much time for anyone, much less any of their food. The poor things seem driven by such an overriding fear of fat that they have lost the ability to see anything in proportion. They see a recipe listing a couple of fluid ounces of double cream and instantly they fear we will take to glugging the stuff, liberally. The magazine preaches balance, but seems unable to maintain its own.

The simple fact is this: eating double cream, butter, or any other current dietetic demon, doesn't in itself make you unhealthy; it depends on how much you eat of it. And frankly, better a tablespoonful of double cream every other day than a cupful of "low fat dairy product" seven days a week. Though now we are forbidden to eat meat on the bone for no good reason, a bit of thin-lipped dreariness about unhealthy eating practices is as nothing. And at least it constitutes debate, which is more than you can say about the Jack Cunningham fiasco.

Anyway, the case against animal fats is overstated. What the anti-meat brigade tends to overlook is that it is not the presence of meat in the diet that causes heart disease and cancer, but the absence of fruit and veg. It's certainly true that most of those who eat half a pound of meat a day are the sort who think anything leafy is for wimps and will eat no fruit except for the occasional banana.

But for the rest of us, excess is fine, I can't help feeling, as long as it's excess all round.

Mammon message

NOW that we have become a nation of addictive shoppers, I notice that no one complains about the commercialisation of Christmas any more. And I, for any number of reasons, am not about to start. But I cannot leave the subject alone, either. Not this year. Not when George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has chosen to preach a sermon from the pulpit of Asda. His recorded seasonal pieties will be piped into stores across the country, with shoppers being handed orders of service and hymn sheets.

It certainly gives a rather different gloss on the idea of the supermarket aisle.

'I cry for wasted lives and the lost years'

Bose Mbah's husband is in a Nigerian jail, sentenced to 15 years for his writing. Now, she, too, is a security risk. **Anne Sebba** reports

Bose Agbe-Davies Mbah is a brave woman. Wife of a political prisoner in Nigeria, she was travelling through the bush last month on her way from Lagos to Britain when she was bitten by a snake or a scorpion — she doesn't know which — and nearly died.

Bose had been driving for more than a day when she stopped at a border control and tried to find a bathroom. "But I had to use a clearing in the grass and almost immediately felt myself being bitten. Then I experienced this intense heat rise through my body and ten minutes later I lost consciousness." She was rushed to hospital in Togo and put on an anti-venom serum drip, even though the doctor did not know what had bitten her. "Luckily, he gave me the strongest possible dose. Without it I would have died."

For Bose, 33, the incident was just the latest in a continuing nightmare that began in May 1995. Her husband, George Mbah, senior assistant editor at *Tell*, a weekly news magazine, left for work as usual that day, kissing his wife and baby daughter goodbye, but never returned. She learned later that several military officers had visited the *Tell* office that evening and, after making inquiries about an article in a sister publication called *Dateline*, had forced Mbah out of the building and into in a waiting Jeep.

A few months later, he was one of four journalists tried by a secret special military tribunal, convicted of being "an accessory after the fact of treason" and sentenced to life imprisonment. After a world outcry this was later commuted to 15 years. Mbah's family and friends vigorously deny such a charge and Amnesty International describes Mbah as a prisoner of conscience who has neither used nor advocated violence but is imprisoned solely because of his work as a journalist. Since then, the 37-year-old writer has been denied access to lawyers and his health has deteriorated.

For Bose, a freelance editor, researcher and columnist, life was hard from the day her husband was taken away. She had a two-month-old daughter to care for, Valerie, and she found work "just evaporated" once people knew she was the wife of a political prisoner. "I'm termed a security risk myself. If it wasn't that I had an enlightened and supportive family, I couldn't manage."

Bose Mbah, a diplomat's daughter, was educated partly in the UK and 13 other countries but returned home in between her father's postings. She has spent the past ten years in Nigeria, gaining two masters degrees, one in political science and international relations, the other in international law and diplomacy. She is articulate, describes herself as "naturally friendly and extrovert. . . I'm a firm believer in myself", and has a winning smile. But the strain of the last few years is apparent. She rubs her eyes a lot and smokes a lot. "These days, I'm the breadwinner," she explained. After her husband's arrest, she moved in with her parents. During her trip to Britain, organised and sponsored by the human rights organisation Article 19, so that she could lobby the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Edinburgh in October, her parents looked after Valerie.

ALAN WELLER

Bose Mbah cried when she saw her husband's appearance

Bose is exhausted from telling people, who find it hard to comprehend, what has happened to her husband and her life. For months she did not know where her husband was being held. Then in April last year, she finally received permission from the Chief Superintendent of Prisons to visit George, who was being held in Biu prison in Borno state. "That is about as far away from his family as he can get. It's a form of psychological torture, removing him from his support system. Biu is alien terrain for George, a different climate and culture where he is viewed almost as a foreigner and with hostility."

Although Bose is allowed to see her husband once a month, it takes her a day and a half travelling each way, and costs roughly six months' salary. She does not have the resources. As the journey is complicated and part of it involves going through an area prone to armed robberies, she cannot take their child. "George has only spent two months with her since she was born.

"Also, the head of the prison told me that whenever I come, I must pass through the Maiduguri office for clearance. I have to sign in to say I'm on my way." Once she gets to Biu, there is no guarantee that she will be allowed to see her husband. "If the Superintendent of Prisons is not there I cannot see my husband. One time I was there I had to wait an extra day because he was not around."

At her first visit, Bose was given a set of rules on what she could or could not say. This included a demand that she must not cry or the meeting would be stopped. But when her husband appeared, Bose was so shocked by his appearance, "of course I cried, I'm only human. And they threatened to stop the meeting but didn't. He was so thin; I felt his ribs sticking out when I hugged him. He can't eat prison food. His skin was scaly and ashen. His eyes are dim and he has film over one."

Bose is particularly concerned about his sight. He was in a car accident while covering the last elections in Nigeria and a surgical wound on his right eyelid is infected. "There is a prison doctor who has seen him but he told me that he cannot give him any drugs for this."

Bose last saw her husband three months ago, but says it is impossible to talk about his medical condition during their 30-minute meeting. "We're in a small room with eight other people, mostly prison officials and police, who listen to everything. They interrupt and give me rules about what I can say or do. We sit side by side and can't possibly be intimate. Once George tried to bend down, pretending to pick something up but really he just wanted to touch my calf. He said to me 'It's not easy is it?', and we both pretended to laugh."

To what extent it's not easy, Bose can only make a well-informed guess. "I know he is kept in solitary and I have seen the hut where he comes from. He is allowed no associations, he can't mix with any of the other prisoners. His cell is damp and he shares it with mosquitoes, cockroaches and other insects, but otherwise it contains nothing except a mattress. I believe he is given a blanket as it gets cold at night, but there is not even a bucket. When there is a 'friendly' guard, he's allowed to be taken to the toilet. That's why you need money. And I have to give money to the prison authorities to supplement his diet otherwise he'll die."

Perhaps the worst deprivation of all for a writer, he has no books other than the Bible and the Koran, no paper, pens, writing material of any sort, nor a table.

What of the uncertain future? Bose insists she still believes in the general goodness of people and a better, democratic Nigeria. She would like to study for a doctorate in feminist theory; she believes that women have a crucial role to play in the democratisation process in Nigeria. "But when the worst has happened you look at life differently, day by day." Until her recent trip, Bose had rarely cried. "But I cried on this trip. I cried for the wasted lives of our future leaders and the lost years and for the creative loss of the country and for humanity and I cried for our daughter. What does she think? She doesn't even know what the word Daddy means. That's a loss that can never ever be replaced."

● *Anne Sebba is a member of the Writers in Prison Committee of English PEN*

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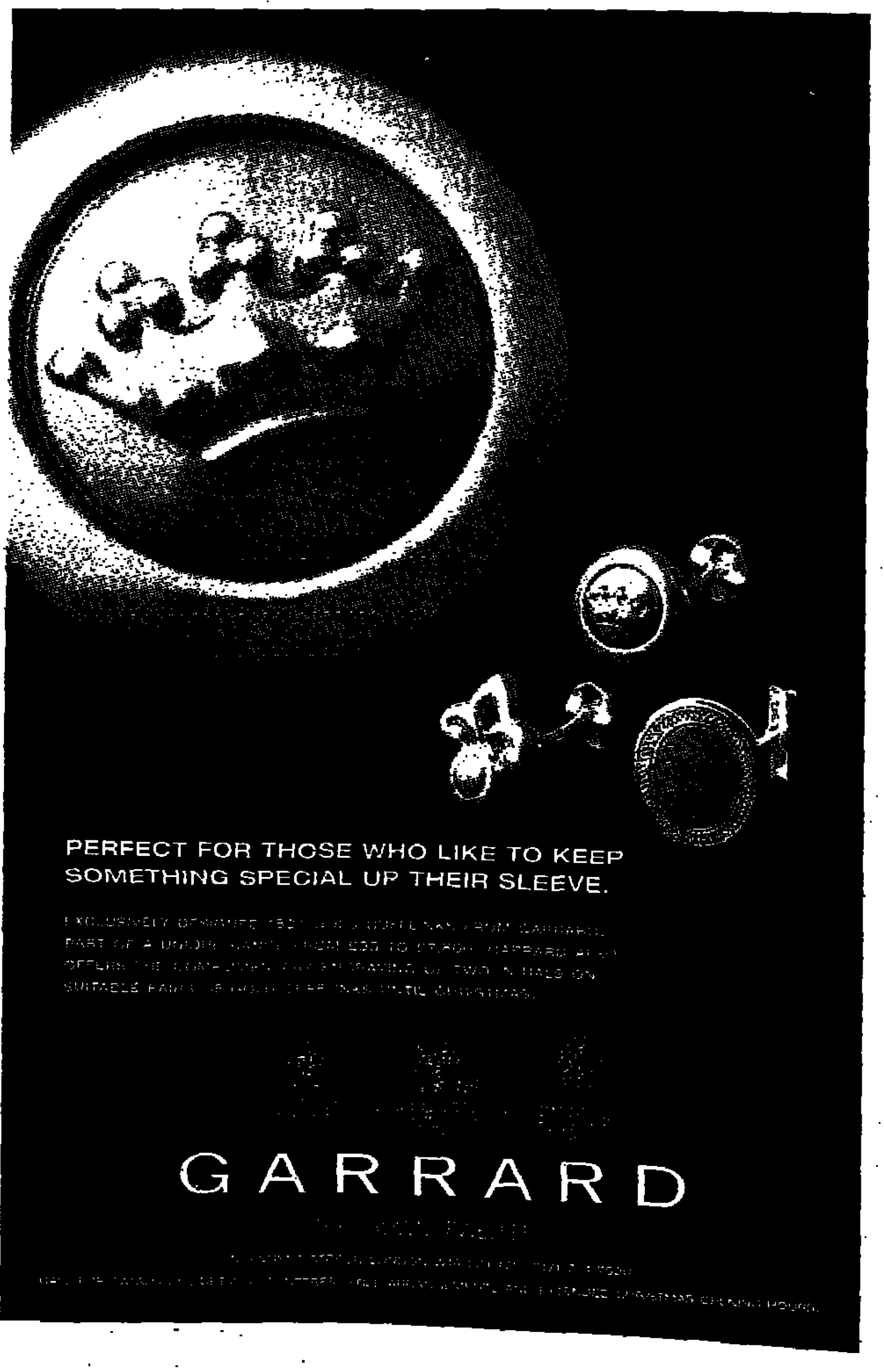


PERFECT FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO KEEP SOMETHING SPECIAL UP THEIR SLEEVE.

GARRARD

Trapped in the cage of state aid

Richard Burge contrasts the zoo's self-help culture with our museums

As any American politician will tell you, it takes something pretty extraordinary to stop Newt Gingrich in his tracks. But that is what happened at London Zoo last week. The Speaker of the House of Representatives is well known for his enthusiasm for zoos. We toured the zoo for nearly three hours. Then, in a special room surrounded by breeding colonies of South Pacific snails — more than 30 species rescued from extinction and now being reintroduced into the wild — he asked: "How much of your revenue is made up by the Government grant?" The answer is none. The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) — despite all its problems of the past — now thrives without a massive and non-accountable grant dispensed by the Government.

Last week, the chief executives of the great institutions of Britain which are locked into the benefit culture of Government funding met with the manager of their Job Centre, the Secretary of State for Culture. Chris Smith did not invite ZSL. I take that as a compliment. More than one and a half million people pay an economic price to walk through the gates of our two zoos (London and Whipsnade) every year. Add to that the 50,000 people who belong to our membership schemes. Our zoos are in the top bracket of visitor numbers but do not take a penny in Government grant aid. Perhaps the lack of an invitation was to avoid discouraging those who were there.

It is the provision of these large grants which deadens our great institutions and ultimately may make them elitist and irrelevant — serving the needs of the insiders and not the taxpayers who keep them alive, year in year out. We must remember that even those which charge for admission are still receiving recurrent Government grants, amounting to at least two thirds of their revenues. It is not a question of the size of recurrent grants — we should ask if they should be dispensed at all.

ZSL does receive some help from the taxpayer. We compete for scientific grants from the research councils, and, like university departments, receive support for our research from the Higher Education Funding Council. We also receive contracts and grants from English Nature towards the cost of our work on native wildlife — most monitoring the spread of disease in endangered animals — but the cost of that work is five times larger than the grants we receive. We are working in Nepal and Kenya on wildlife veterinary projects: half the cost is borne by the Overseas Development Department, the rest we raise. It is a transparent relationship reflecting both our mission and Government objectives. It is a partnership.

It is precisely this relationship — Government contributing towards the cost of particular projects or activity — which should be the foundation of all Government funding for cultural institutions. The museums, galleries and theatres have clear income streams from visitors. There is no reason why they should not be able to plan to dispense completely with the Government grant within ten years, and revert to seeking funding for individual projects (you know the type: ones with a beginning, middle and end, and at a fixed price).

If the funding is not achieved, then the project does not happen. The skill comes in persuading the Government, like any supporter, to part with its money because you touch the chord which reflects its interests and objectives. And the same goes for the museums. Government help should not be the majority payment into a single, fixed-cost budget. Where is the incentive in that for trustees and management? It is a situation which simply creates a culture of spending money and not earning it. The dead hand of Government lies heavily — creating a dependency which takes you every year further from the people you are meant to serve.

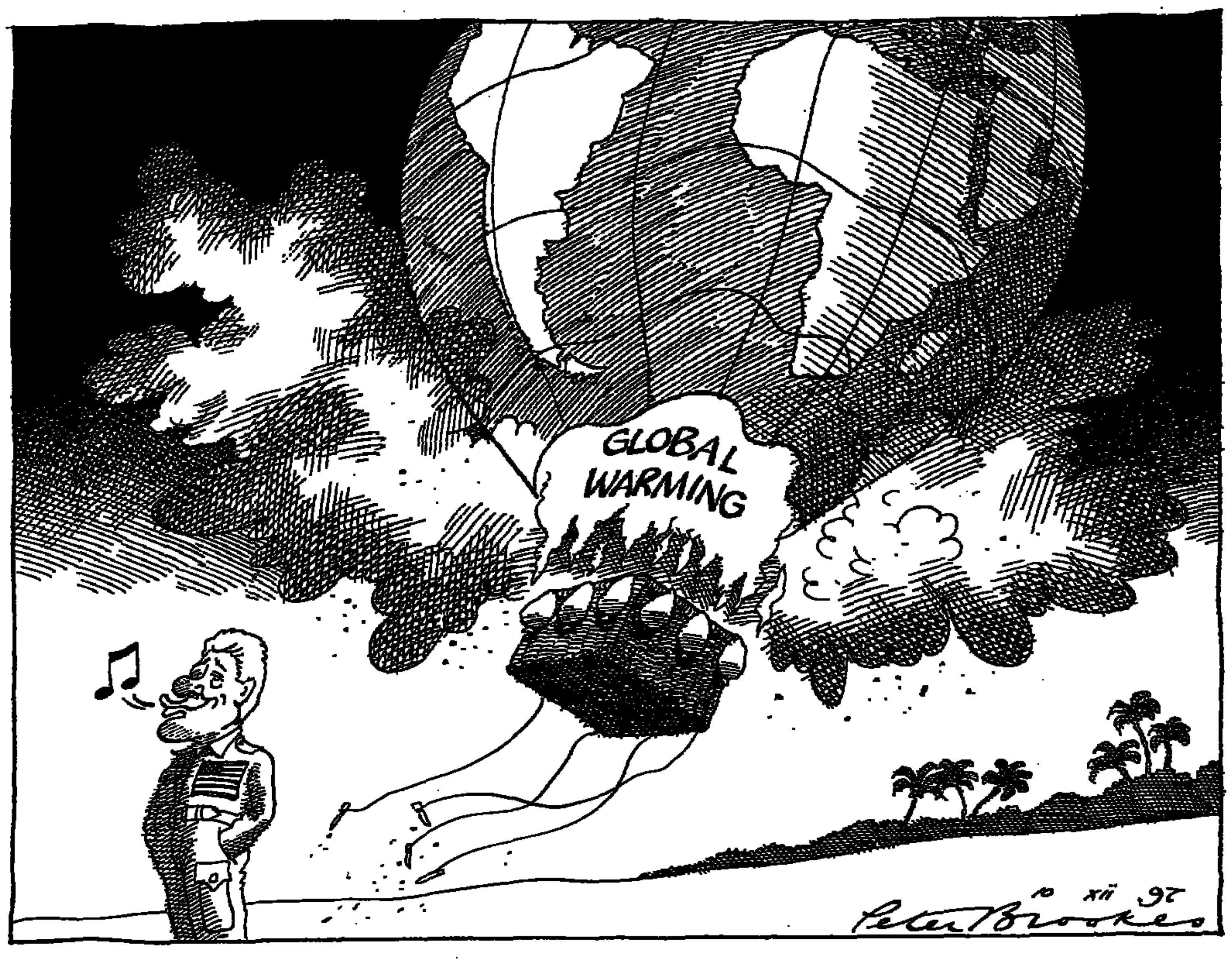
This will open Government funding for a much wider range of institutions whose input to our national life is just as great. We are still awaiting a Millennium Commission decision on our National Aquarium project (half funded by the Lottery, half by a commercial bond issue — and with no public funds required at all for its operation), but in our proposal we committed ourselves to giving every child in Newham a free school visit every year. I would love to ask Chris Smith for a three-year contract to provide every child in London with a free visit to London Zoo — and I am sure that my colleagues in Chester and Edinburgh would do the same. But there is no point in bothering him while the coffers are emptied. Getting rid of the recurrent block grants to the few will enable the many to become involved.

> Large grants make our institutions elitist and irrelevant

Yes, free entry will have to go — but it isn't that common, and entry to the special exhibitions can empty your pocket as quickly as a full commercial rate. We will all have to use information technology and a bit of imaginative thinking to ensure that those who can pay do; and those who genuinely cannot afford the headline prices are not turned away.

The zoo will continue to do its work — 50 full-time scientists working at the cutting edge of genetics and ecology in more than 20 countries — another 50 staff based full time overseas on projects directly contributing to the survival of habitats and species. We have proved that permanent indebtedness is not essential to serve the public good. It is time for Government to break the mould and to start participating in success. And to insist on the same achievements from the institutions that it supports.

The author is Director General of the Zoological Society of London.



Here's to you, Mr R

Politics and the press need buccaneers such as the Paymaster General

Simon Jenkins

Let me make one thing clear. I am not related to the Paymaster-General, Geoffrey Robinson. I am not his uncle, neice, brother-in-law or second cousin once removed. Legal action will ensue should the press suggest otherwise. So anything I say in Mr Robinson's defence is based on known facts. His explanation for his exotic and lucrative finances seems wholly plausible and beyond reproach.

Labour used to argue that able persons should not be denied political advancement by virtue of poverty. Quite so. It now argues that nor should advancement be denied by virtue of wealth. Quite so again. I am with Mr Robinson. Besides, he is a Blair courtier with lots of money, a good job, a well-provided family and houses in Tuscany and France. In years to come, he may need all the help I can give him.

So much for the defence. Now for the prosecution. The press is currently anguished. For more than a year it has been exploited by Labour's apparatchiks. It drooled over Mr Blair's rise to power, was flattered, bamboozled, woven and spun. It tore John Major's Tories to shreds and told appropriate whoppers about Mr Blair's "landslide" popular support last May.

Each week, nay each day, the press is now summoned to glorify some Government initiative to the world. Laws, units, White Papers and task forces bubble up from the hot springs of Downing Street. Editors cannot run a decent sleaze story but Peter Mandelson wipes it off the front page by announcing another step down the path to paradise. Good news will not lie down. This is professionally debilitating. As a policeman's life is dull without crime, and a soldier's dull without war, so a newspaper is miserable when ministers never slip on banana skins.

Suddenly along comes Mr Robinson. On stage lurches a millionaire MP who, like Bacchus, has been popping sun-dried tomatoes and wind-dried bressaiola into the mouth of the future Prime Minister as he lies by a Chiantishire pool. The millionaire emerges from Opposition obscurity to a post at the heart of government. He accepts office as Paymaster General, yet does not take a salary. Mr Pepys was always suspicious of officials who did not take a salary.

Soon we discover that the new Paymaster has an intimate knowledge of venues that once brought tears to the eyes of financial journalists, of Guernsey, Jersey and Caribbean islands of impeccable sand and secrecy, with names like Antilles, Leewards, Caymans and Bermudas. Reporters in these far-flung outposts have been sending their children hungry to school ever since the fall of the Tories. They are now back to work, with tales of blind trusts and discretionary companies, of swaps, switches, sales and transfers. Uncle Benjy and Aunt Mavis, brother Esau, sister Prue, and cousins umpteen times removed have their names in brass on Bermudan doorposts. And joy of joys, there is a mysterious Frenchwoman, benefactress of our hero. Her name is Madame Bourgeois. You think I am joking? Surely she is not one of the Islington Bourgeoises?

Nor was this all. The Paymaster is active. He soon steps forward to deprive the humble working man of tax relief on his Peps and Tessas. New Labour voters must eke out their savings in suburban Sedgefield while the swish Family Robinson wanders the beaches of the Caribbean with hardly a P60 to its name. Next the Paymaster masterminds a windfall levy on fat-cat utilities. He grabs £6 a week from the mouths of children of lone mothers, takes the very rusk from between their gums. He is said to be the financial brains behind Mr Blair's new Social Exclusion Unit to which, we understand, his department is not contributing a penny.

This Paymaster is at the cutting edge of the new caring but fiscally responsible Blairism. He is unbending with public finances. No loophole will escape his scrutiny. Yet he stands in the spotlight, quivering, tongue-tied and vulnerable. We watch the spin-doctors fuss round him. They spray him with Blair Protection Factor 26. M'learned friends are summoned to write the requisite judgments. M'cringeing editors are telephoned.

I suppose the press could have done what it was told. It could have left Mr Robinson alone with his reasonable explanation. The salivating Tories could have been told to shut up, on the grounds that Tory sleaze is not yet a "spent conviction". But to no avail. The modern journalist is only human. Under the Tories he was accustomed to a Robinson story once a week. It became an addiction. Mr Robinson is manna from Heaven. He may, inadvertently and with no thought for the press, have done nothing wrong. That difficulty can be overcome. Any politician can be accused of hypocrisy. Mr Robinson stands proxy for Labour hypocrisy. Roasting time is overdue. The press must have its roast.

There are few lessons for the Government to draw from the Robinson affair. The press will have its day. We know it is always best to be open from the start, and always best to play safe in giving jobs to friends with a colourful past. We know too that any rich man finds it hard to pass through the eye of a political needle. There is too much envy in the land. Mr Robinson, like his old partner Mr Maxwell, is the sort of buccaneer that makes the world go round. Some turn it clockwise, some anticlockwise. Since politicians are charged with the guardianship of other people's money, they are naturally subject to stringent tests of probity. When they are also charged with taxing that money, their own taxes must be proof not just against the Revenue's finest but against Fleet Street's fiercest. Labour has long benefited from that ferocity. The boot is on the other foot.

These skirmishes are part of a necessary war, between the masters of government and their monitors. Few would go as far as Jefferson. "If it were left to me," he wrote, "to decide if we should have a Government without newspapers or newspapers without a Government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." Yet the hounding of ministers by newspapers is the best continuous deterrent to corruption yet devised by democracy. It is a modern version of running the gauntlet, flogging the regiment and decimation. Like all exemplary punishments it is usually unfair.

Can Mr Blair's Government take the punishment without flinching? Nothing so debilitated the Major administration as its susceptibility to media attack. One minister after another fell to the Fleet Street axe, seldom because he or she was not up to the job. Downing Street evolved a ritual of self-humiliation. A minister would be caught in the glare of the press. A fulsome statement of support would be rushed from the Prime Minister. There would be more glare. Downing Street would hesitate, crumple and capitulate. Embattled ministers would dread the message, "Downing Street on the line, offering 100 per cent backing". The poison arrow had already left the bow.

Already Mr Blair has had to defend the public reputations of Harriet Harman, Robin Cook, Tessa Jowell, Tony Banks and Lord Simon. Not one has had to resign. He is fulsomely backing Mr Robinson. He may be ruthless towards those who disagree with Cabinet policy. But he seems equally adamant in support of those he has chosen as his team. For an administration that in other respects seems obsessed with media presentation, this is impressive.

Cabinet discipline should come from within, not without. The Prime Minister should make the rules and enforce them. The press can say what it likes, up to the limits of the law. It can be rude, unfair, partial and mischievous. A wounded buck can be separated from the herd, hounded to the ground and mauled. That is how the press works. But the herd can gather round to protect its own. Mr Blair's herd seems able to do this.

We might disagree with the exemption of car racing from the tobacco ban. We might disagree on single-mothers' allowances, on rate capping, on Peps and on the Social Exclusion Unit gimmick. But a Government that refuses to be bullied by the press is inherently a strong Government. Its strategy is not spun of headlines and editorials. Its responses are not crippled by daily attention to how each incident of administration will run on the evening news, or which soundbite went down well with the focus groups. Its mind is likely to be its own.

Alan Coren

Stay on the qui vive for a soi-disant hypnotherapist manqué

Canny as you are in the ways of this world, you will, I know, be neither surprised to hear that I receive, in an average week, some two dozen calling cards, nor envious of the giddy social whirl this information might appear to bespeak; because you receive them, too. They are not delivered on monogrammed silver salvers by periwigged flunkies inviting us to a spot of dinner at Lady Molly's or a hand of bezique with the Earl of Edgware, they are poked through our letter-boxes, often in threes, by stubbled derelicts in shell-suits inviting us to a spot of vindaloo at the Moti Mahal or a hand of cowboy down our drains.

And while these missives vary broadly in professional quality — ranging from flimsy Roneoed offers of lanscape gardnin, through glossy triptych endorsements by smirking former ITN newsreaders of personal finance schemes which have brought early retirement aboard their own Caribbean sloops, to embossed pasteboard undertakings that every individually architect-designed kitchen carries with it a hand-written 200-year guarantee from the Filipino Secretary of State for Fitted Cupboards — all exude that same acrid pong of iffiness which alerts the more circumspect among us to reach for our bargepoles.

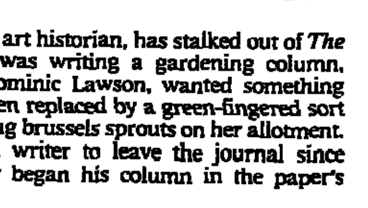
And, beyond any question, the iffiest of all are the invitations to alternative therapies. These do not merely pong, they quack, and while I may be unqualified to take issue with the Prince of Wales over how much good what he is graciously pleased to call complementary medicine might do to the nation's sick, I have to say that his recent enthusiastic endorsement of it has done no good at all to the nation's mats. Of late, I have noted a sudden exponential surge in invitations from countless crackpots manifestly fired by Royalist zeal who insist that they alone are in a position to triumph where conventional means have failed, and that should I ever find myself feeling a bit — if I will forgive the technical jargon — under the weather, then my only course would be to ring for an immediate appointment at the world-renowned Kilburn Karavan Klinic, conveniently parked behind Burger King, where their highly trained international staff will, following the thorough diagnosis of a rooster's entrails and a full body-scan via tuning-fork techniques discovered by the ancient Aztecs, bang aromatic nails into my flesh, wire my head up to their unique Electromagnetron, flush me through with a foaming mixture of Dead Sea water and Ariel Automatic, hang me from a peg invested with miraculous healing properties by the spirit guide of a much-loved member of the Monagasque Royal Family, and send me skipping back into the world in pristine fettle. If, on the other hand, I am too infirm to travel, the Klinic would be only too pleased to drive round to my place and do it, subject of course to petrol-money up front.

Now, though all these will, as I say, instantly be binned by the shrewd majority, there may yet lurk among my readership a desperate few suffering from ailments which have hitherto defeated conventional doctors, who may therefore be prey to such charlatans, and it is to them that today's column is principally addressed. For I have this week received not one but two invitations from soi-disant healers against whom the more gullible must especially be warned, in that both claim not only to be hypnotherapists, but also to offer a domiciliary service.

Yes, they will come round to your premises, and put you to sleep. Might we not, after the briefest reflection, conclude this to be the iffiest invitation of all? Might it not only pong and quack but also set clanging a very carillon of alarm bells? Because the unique concern here, surely, is not that hypnotism doesn't work, but that, unlike all those other catchpenny procedures, it does. Which is to say that there is undoubtedly a slim chance that you could indeed be put into a trance and awake an hour later to find your aches and pains gone. Which is also to say, to those of us canny in the ways of this world, that there is an even fatter chance that you could be put into a trance and awake an hour later to find your hypnotherapist and your silverware gone.

Garden weed

SIR ROY STRONG, the flamboyant art historian, has stalked out of *The Sunday Telegraph*, for whom he was writing a gardening column, because the newspaper's editor, Dominic Lawson, wanted something terribly "suburban". His slot has been replaced by a green-fingered sort who chronicles the delights of growing brussels sprouts on her allotment. Sir Roy is the latest silver-penned writer to leave the journal since Dominic's arrival in 1995. Sir Roy began his column in the paper's magazine last May and quickly found a metaphysical significance in wysteria lost on previous writers. He rummaged across fields of science, architecture, literature, painting and, of course, embroidery. "When my copy ended up on the page, it appeared to have gone through a thresher and read like Noddy prose," Sir Roy tells me. "They seemed to want me to write about suburban patches and answer readers' questions about growing rhubarb or getting mistletoe to sprout in your trees." This was too much for Sir Roy, author of five books on garden design and a long-term contributor to *Country Life*. His exasperation follows the departures of such *Sunday Telegraph* characters as Beryl Goldsmith, once Lord Tebbit's thoughtful typist, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, Kenneth Rose, the respected royal historian, and the Duchess of Devonshire. Dominic suggests that his policy of bringing in new writers has been successful and revels in his resident gardener, Elspeth Thompson, turfing out Sir Roy. "She was a bit squeezed," he says. Allotment aficionados can now crack open the Baby Bio.


Dead heads: Lawson, Strong

THE TIMES DIARY

● *TONY BLAIR has developed the most exacting make-up habits. Monday found him being "touched up" for an interview on Channel 4 with the newsreader Jon Snow. "He wouldn't let them apply the Chinese yellow foundation," says Snow. "He didn't think it suited him."*

Study leave

STIFF gins are being gulped at University College, Oxford, where Sir Robin Butler is about to slip into the Master's chair. Awkwardly for the college's forthright domestic bursar, Elizabeth Crawford, the Cabinet Secretary's son had a challenging time as one of her charges — and has been telling Daddy about his varsity days.

Andrew Butler went up in 1987, and swiftly ran into Ms Crawford. Contemporaries recall an exchange of views about college rooms. Since then she has not endeared herself to squirts there by supporting college rent rises. Now some quad dwellers hope that Sir Robin's brisk Whitehall manner will signal the prompt retirement of Crawford. Sir Robin, who was one of the college's Bright Young Things nearly 40 years ago, follows in the wobbly footsteps of Professor John Alberry, who resigned after a few ill-advised, after-dinner remarks to female members of the college boat club.

Fag end

THE burden of being a Blair babe is clearly begining to tell on Claire Ward MP, who at 25 represents the metropolitain blades of Watford. The other day found her in the division lobby in support of Michael Foster's foxhunting Bill. Some of her more senior colleagues, perhaps fearing the flak, lit up. Bad move. The sensitive convent-educated Ward ordered the MPs to stub out their cigarettes. "She was screeching. Who does she think she is?" says one. She denies using undue force. "It was heaving and extremely hot and they had the bloody cheek to blow smoke all over us. It was done in a light-hearted manner but people do have to be considerate."

"Ta"

● *LORD WYATT was an extraordinary monument to survival. He was also a great tease. I remember a hapless Frenchman once asking him to spell his name. Wyatt's response? "Waterloo, Ypres, Agincourt, Trafalgar, Trafalgar."*

Cat's tales

IMMORTALITY is assured for Humphrey, the ailing Downing Street cat, who is to be chronicled in a glossy picture-book by the delightful Sheila Gunn, former aide to John Major. *A Cat's Eye View of Number 10* follows the rise from humble suburban alley cat, the fight against snobbery and finally defeat by the Blairs, consigning him to gloomy retirement back in the suburbs. "The book won't be party political," the author insists, despite admitting it was she who first suggested Cherie did not like the cat. "Although I might mention that Humphrey's life has been far from happy since the Blairs moved in. He's a Thatcherite — he makes his own way." Importantly, she will dispel claims that Humphrey was Major's closest ally. "They accepted each other's right to be there," says Gunn, "but there wasn't much small talk."

Moggie and biographer

● *Those who accuse my old friend the Lord Chancellor of* folie de grandeur *are being unfair. He is not the first Woolsack-warmer to appoint a special adviser — his hero, Cardinal Wolsey, hired that inveterate intriguer Thomas Cromwell as his "agent and secretary".*

JASPER GERARD

BUILDING ON BEVAN

The NHS White Paper is imaginative, but may not be enough

The National Health Service may once have been the envy of the world but it is no longer. Although healthcare consumes only some 6 per cent of the United Kingdom's GDP, a remarkably low figure for an advanced nation, the weight of expectations from an ageing population has placed strain on a creaking system. The last Government's reforms, most notably the establishment of GP fundholding, brought gains in efficiency. Although they emphasised existing inequalities by allowing patients in fundholding practices to demand superior care, they also forced consultants to improve the way they operated in manner which benefited all patients. The internal market has not, however, proved to be a panacea. Initially it attracted envious eyes; but weaknesses in its operation have tempered the enthusiasm of even some early cheerleaders.

Public attachment to the founding principles of the NHS remains strong but the growing sense that Bevan's vision needs further renovation informs the Government's White Paper, *The New NHS*, published yesterday. Its authors hope that the template for reform that it advances, an attempt to move beyond competition without returning to a crude command and control system, will attract interest from other nations grappling with the need to build a modern health care system.

While the White Paper shies away from the radical leaps that some health-care thinkers advocate, it is not a step backwards. The White Paper is guided by the principles of empowering professionals, encouraging innovation, better informing the public, holding institutions to account through publication of standards and holding a central "hit squad" in reserve to address conspicuous failure. Those are principles which inform the Government's education reforms and they promise an improvement in the fair delivery of health care.

Like a Christmas tree, the White Paper is festooned with eye-catching gifts and an especially prominent role for angels. The prospect of on-line access for every GP, the new powers granted to nurses and the promise of a 24-hour helpline manned by them to offer instant advice are all headline-grabbing innovations, and no less worthwhile for that. It is, however, the underlying structure which is most important; while it may not prove evergreen it is at least sturdy.

The grouping together of GP practices into commissioning bodies may, depending on the vantage point of the partisan, look like the end of fundholding or its extension. But to judge any reform on its fidelity to one means of competition rather than its effectiveness in advancing the end of better care is conservative in the worst sense of the word.

Given the relatively limited potential fundholders have always had to shop around, GPs should welcome the establishment of superior national benchmarks on costs and standards to make local failings more transparent. GPs will also appreciate the creation of a new watchdog body, the Commission for Health Improvement. The benchmarks and the commission create a mechanism to "name and shame" as well as nudge towards better practice those hospitals which fail to learn from others.

The White Paper does not tackle all the potential failings which can afflict a tax-funded monopoly system. Proposals to modernise the NHS which considered how stakeholder insurance systems might work in healthcare as they can in pensions could have forced voters to consider more directly what they can realistically expect for 6 per cent of GDP. The Government believes that its reforms forestall the need for a more radical examination of funding, and they certainly go with the grain of public sentiment. But this White Paper, although admirable and imaginative, will not be the final word.

HOME ALONE

Harman's proposals are well-intentioned but confused

How parliamentary times have changed. A year ago, a small rebellion could have brought the Government down. Now the new administration has been in power for six months and faces its first parliamentary test only today. Even the result is a foregone conclusion, thanks to Labour's huge majority and the Tories' intention to vote with it.

Any rebellion will nonetheless be significant for what it says about the effectiveness of Labour's disciplinary machine, and the willingness of MPs to go along with the more distasteful choices that the Government has taken upon itself to make. What it will not necessarily show, however, is that social security ministers have won their argument on merit.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, believes that lone mothers should, wherever possible, work rather than stay on benefit. To this end, her officers will be writing to all lone parents with school-aged children inviting them to an interview where job and childcare advice will be given. There is no compulsion involved, however, and the majority of parents contacted so far have not even taken up the offer of an interview. At the same time, she is now implementing the Conservatives' policy of abolishing, for all new claimants, the premium on child benefit that lone parents win, in order to bring them into line with married couples.

Both these policies have merit. A recent study of lone mothers by the Policy Studies Institute found that employment was the best way of improving their family circumstances, while remaining on benefit led to a progressive decline in their standard of living. It also found that lone parents with qualifications, even poor GCSEs, earned much more than those without. This suggests that putting them through education or training could do much to improve their chances of winning reasonably paid work.

The trouble comes because Ms Harman's arguments are often either opaque or inconsistent. Unlike the Tories, she is reluctant to make the case that the benefit system should not be loaded in favour of single parenthood or that the existence of lone parent benefits might actually encourage teenage girls to have babies, knowing that the State will support them. This is the fastest-growing group of lone parents and the most intractable. They tend to be the ones who have never worked, who have few if any qualifications and who are most resistant to trying to find a job.

Moreover, the abolition of the extra premium to new claimants perversely acts as a deterrent to seeking work. For if a lone mother takes a job and subsequently loses it, she becomes a new claimant and will find herself worse off than before. Another problem is that, while Ms Harman's efforts to encourage these mothers back to work are aimed at those whose youngest child is at school, the cuts in benefit apply across the board, so that those with pre-school children will also suffer. They may not want to work while their child is small, and even if they do, until there is affordable childcare for them, they may be unable to do so.

Ministers cannot afford to back down in the face of rebellion, not least because it would set a precedent in an area where many more such contentious changes will have to be made. But, when so much needs to be done in the field of welfare reform, it is a shame that the Government has not started with proposals that are better thought-out and easier to justify.

THE JET STREAM BUBBLE

Around the world in 80 tries is the flight path to the record

To lose a lighter-than-air balloon is one of the first of life's little tragedies. The child cries. The grown-up scolds. But neither can reverse the laws of gas and gravity, and so the balloon sails up and away as an early practical lesson in physics.

When the balloon is one-and-a-half times as tall as Nelson's column, the lesson comes as more of a disappointment. But yesterday's unintended escape of Richard Branson's *Virgin Global Challenger* was caused by the same hazard of the balloonist's art, magnified 10,000 times. Instead of the child letting go of the string, a thermal blast from the Atlas Mountains snapped the balloon's 16 cables, each tested to hold a load of one tonne, one after the other in a ripple effect.

The race to be the first balloonist to circumnavigate the globe passes for the moment to Virgin's four rivals. Steve Fossett, the old-fashioned solo balloonist who flies in an unpressurised cabin and thermal underwear, will be reassured that even the high-tech sophistication of modern balloons does not protect them from the basic chances of the game.

For as with sailing, venturing off the land into an alien element presents natural risks for man. Balloons seem peculiarly vulnerable to them. In 1823 Charles Green, the pioneer balloonist, climbed into his basket and lit his fire for take-off. The balloon rose slowly, but because of oversight or a practical joke, the ropes were not fastened. So the basket stayed behind on the ground. Instead of staying in it, Mr Green and his copilot clung on to the balloon hoop. Thus dangling, they floated over Cheltenham.

The largest unmanned balloon was made by Winzen Research of St Paul, Minnesota. This monstrous bubble had an inflatable volume of 2 million cubic metres, and stood 300 metres high when inflated. But it never got off the ground, and was destroyed at its launch on July 8, 1975. Count Caproni's Ca 90 was another giant stumble into the air for mankind. Like an immense houseboat with nine multi-layered wings and eight engines, it was launched on Lake Maggiore in January 1921. It would not have looked out of line sailing up the Channel with the Spanish Armada. Count Caproni ordered the reluctant test pilot to take off with a ballast equivalent to 60 passengers. The pilot revved his 3,200 horse power engines and rose up. But its nose dipped, the ballast rolled to the front, the wings snapped in a ripple motion, and the Ca 90 plunged into the lake.

All records rise on the backs of previous attempts. Hundreds tried to break the four-minute mile before Bannister or climb Everest before Hillary and Tenzing. To judge from the state of the ballooning art, somebody is going to fly around the globe soon to achieve what the Royal Geographic Society describes as "the last great aeronautical prize". There would be poetic justice if it were the man who has tried so hard and had so many heroic failures, adding to both the gaiety and the admiration of nations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour tax plans 'dishonourable'

From Mr N. J. Inkley

Sir, I begin to understand the difference. *Old* Labour passed contradictory motions at its conferences. *New* Labour stage-manages conferences and reserves contradictory ideas for policy introductions. Thus, we must look for more personal funding of pension benefits — but they attack the tax position of private-sector pension funds.

The National Health Service is under undue pressure — but the elderly (who make most demands upon it) are, by taxation change, discouraged from continuing with private provision.

We are *all* to be encouraged to get the savings habit — but not to get it to any degree or they will take it back through taxation. (Some, it seems, have got the habit too much already!)

I suppose all this must be the People's Plan (everything lately is a People's something) for using fiscal policy to thwart declared government intention. Now that *is* a new idea.

Yours,
NEIL INKLEY,
6 Knot Lane, Walton-le-Dale,
Preston, Lancashire.
December 9.

From Councillor Graham Edwards

Sir, Peter Lilley is quite right ("Hypocrisy at the Treasury", December 9) to draw attention to Labour's dishonourable action on taxes since the general election.

During the campaign the Labour Party pledged that they had "no plans to increase tax at all". Unfortunately, it has since become abundantly clear that this pledge only applied to the rates of income tax. It is hardly surprising therefore that we are now seeing huge tax increases for all sections of the population from the rich right down to poor single-parent families, even though income tax rates remain unchanged.

The news that council tax will rise by as much as 10 per cent (reports, December 3) — three times the rate of inflation — will come as a bitter blow to many people. The gradual removal of restrictions on council spending by the Labour Government will mean that this is only the start of above-inflation increases in council tax in the years ahead.

This dreadful news follows on closely from Labour's £5 billion smash and grab raid on pension funds in the Budget, new taxes on higher education and, of course, the recent announcement of new taxes on the personal savings of many middle-income families.

It is not only homeowners and savers who seek to provide for themselves rather than rely on the State who are being vindictively penalised by this new Labour Government after only seven months in power. In true socialist fashion we are all being made to suffer. I dread to think what other new taxes they will impose on us all over the next four years.

Events of the last few months have certainly proved beyond all doubt that new Labour is still the party of high taxes. They should change their slogan to read: "New Labour — New Taxes for the many, not just the few."

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM EDWARDS
(Conservative Group Leader),
Cambridge City Council,
The Guildhall, Cambridge.
December 9.

Maxwell connection

From Mr Joe Haines

Sir, Geoffrey Robinson must defend himself over his alleged offshore trusts, but Peter Lilley (article, December 9) doesn't strengthen the case against the Paymaster General by smearing him (and Mrs Helen Liddell) by associating them with Robert Maxwell.

Twenty-five thousand people (me included) worked for or with Maxwell and many subsequently had cause to regret it. A goodly number of them were politicians, including Lord Havers, Lady Thatcher's one-time Lord Chancellor, and two other former Tory Cabinet Ministers, Lord Rippon and Lord (Peter) Walker.

Guests at his home or his dining room included Lady Thatcher, Lord Tebbit, Sir Malcolm Rifkind and Lord Young, among others. It was in Maxwell's office that I first met Norman Lamont. The tributes paid to Maxwell on his death by Tory politicians, especially Douglas Hurd, showed that Maxwell's Labour-supporting employees and associates weren't the only ones in error about him.

It would be madness — indeed, wicked — to suggest any or all of these were in some way less honourable because they enjoyed the fruits of Maxwell's money or his dining table. But when Mr Lilley seeks to throw the kind of mud he did in today's article it is as likely to stick to members of his own party as to others.

Yours faithfully,
JOE HAINES,
1 South Frith,
London Road, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
December 9.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Minimum wage 'a threat to jobs'

From the Head of the Policy Unit of the Institute of Directors

Sir, I read the letter from Ian McCartney, Minister of State at the DTI (December 3), with bemusement. He claims that the minimum wage has two objectives: to end poverty pay and to help industry provide skilled and productive jobs. The first, in our view, is concerned with the wrong target and the second looks plain wrong.

The Government's concern should surely be about poverty rather than "poverty pay". Poverty is overwhelmingly a problem of the unemployed: the minimum wage, by reducing job opportunities of those on the bottom rung of the jobs ladder, is more likely to increase than to reduce it.

We have substantial evidence to show that the higher costs and administrative burdens of a minimum wage will lead to employers recruiting fewer disadvantaged people. It is, moreover, clear to us that the imposition of a minimum wage runs quite counter to the objectives of the Government's welfare-to-work proposals.

Concerning Mr McCartney's second objective, I see absolutely no reason why a minimum wage should lead to a more skilled workforce. On the contrary, the extra costs could well lead to employers having to cut back their training budgets. We all accept that British business would benefit from a better skills base, but imposing higher costs on employers is not the way to achieve it.

Finally, I must take issue with Mr McCartney's claim that the minimum wage is supported by all sectors of industry. We in the IoD believe that it will damage job prospects and that the rigid enforcement procedures (which will still miss the rogues) will burden business. Even if it is brought in at a modest rate, who knows how vote-hungry politicians will ramp it up in future?

Yours sincerely,
RUTH LEA,
Head of the Policy Unit,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1.
December 4.

From Dr Charles Hanson

Sir, The letters about the minimum wage from Ian McCartney and John Healey, MP, suggest that the Government is beginning to be carried away by its own propaganda. One of the most absurd claims in new Labour's election manifesto was that a national minimum wage would be a "plus" to labour-market flexibility, when it is clear that the exact opposite is the case. Mr Healey mentions the US example with approval. Yes, they have a federal minimum wage, but this has been deliberately kept at a low level and there is an exemption for all firms with an annual turnover of less than $500,000. Does Mr Healey advocate such an exemption for the UK?

Meanwhile Mr McCartney argues that the national minimum wage will "help industry provide skilled and productive jobs". One wonders if he has read the evidence of the Engineering Employers Federation to the Low Pay Commission. They quote the example of an electronics plant in East Anglia — a subsidiary of an American multinational firm — which currently employs 400 workers. It is reviewing its pay structure and production process, taking into account the likely impact of the national minimum wage. The review suggests that the company "will probably reduce the number of semi-skilled production employees by 100".

The truth is surely that in committing itself to the old Labour policy of a national minimum wage new Labour lit the fuse on an inflationary time-bomb which will go off early in 1999. That explosion will coincide with the end of the two-year period which has been set for keeping the lid on public expenditure.

Presumably both old Labour and the Opposition are looking forward to 1999 with relish. One hopes that Gordon Brown and his team of Treasury ministers are making suitable preparations.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HANSON
(Economist and employment adviser),
32 Swarland Avenue,
Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne.
December 4.

From Mr Stephen Ford

Sir, Supporters of Thatcherite economics were unconcerned by the mass unemployment those reforms caused in the short and medium terms, yet alarm us with (contestable) claims that the minimum wage will have similar consequences. Why is this?

Have they suddenly begun to care about families and communities, or is it that they won't be the beneficiaries of this reform?

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN FORD,
Roscoe and Gladstone Hall,
Greenbank Lane, Liverpool 17.
md0u7141@liv.ac.uk
December 3.

'Two-flag' Gibraltar

From the Opposition Spokesmen for Foreign Affairs and Defence

Sir, We are increasingly worried about the Government's attitude to Gibraltar.

Today you report that Spain is once again calling for joint sovereignty of the Rock. British officials were said both to dismiss the idea as "completely unacceptable" and to make clear that "they would not do anything to upset Madrid". If the idea really is unacceptable, then the Government will have to block it — thereby upsetting Spain.

Last week the Government voted to admit Spain into the military command structure of Nato (report, December 3) — despite earlier official assurances that Robin Cook would block their membership while they restricted access to Gibraltar. "This is not just a theoretical issue," a Foreign Office official stated in July. "Even now planning for a Nato exercise is being hampered by these restrictions. Cook will, if necessary, go to the wire over this issue and block Spanish integration."

At Amsterdam last June the Government agreed to a Spanish amendment giving any member state of the EU the power to veto Britain's opt-in to the treaty's Schengen accord. Since the British Government has admitted that it might well want to opt in to these areas this amendment has handed Spain a vital bargaining counter on Gibraltar.

Before the election Tony Blair said that he would never allow Britain to be isolated in Europe. The people of Gibraltar are beginning to pay the price.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOWARD
(Opposition Spokesman for
Foreign Affairs),
GEORGE YOUNG
(Opposition Spokesman for Defence),
House of Commons.
December 8.

Climate change

From Mr Tim Yeo, MP for Suffolk South (Conservative)

Sir, The Prime Minister's article highlighting his "Green Summit" of business leaders at Downing Street (December 4) contains many laudable sentiments and rightly emphasises that climate change is an opportunity as well as a challenge for industry.

Sadly the gulf between ministerial rhetoric and substance on this crucial subject grows wider every day. Gordon Brown's consultation Budget Statement (details and leading article, November 26) totally failed to set out the options for green taxes such as those which could encourage more efficient and clean vehicle engines.

On the same day as the Prime Minister's article appeared, you reported his personal intervention to boost the use of coal in power generation — one of the oldest and most polluting methods available. The Government's inability even to recognise, let alone make, the hard choices involved in tackling climate change is undermining the role Britain might otherwise have played at the Kyoto conference.

In particular, more effective leadership from Britain might reduce the risk of this conference producing a compromise outcome so full of loopholes that any headline target for cuts in carbon-dioxide emissions will be utterly worthless.

Yours faithfully,
TIM YEO (Opposition
Environment Spokesman),
House of Commons.
December 8.

From Mrs Sheila Vince

Sir, Surely the whole point of mining coal is to burn it. I am in the dark as to how Mr Blair can reconcile his determination to preserve the coal industry with his statements before the Green Summit:

> The European Union wants to see a 15 per cent reduction in those gases that cause global warming ... The UK has an excellent track record in science and technology. We need to build on this knowledge and experience to develop new, clean technologies. We need to look at new ways of producing energy. This could involve promoting greater use of solar energy and making more use of renewable sources. This will ensure that the UK delivers what it has signed up to and will help other countries fulfil their commitments.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA VINCE,
42 Kenilworth Road,
Coventry, West Midlands.

From the Chief Executive of the British Wind Energy Association

Sir, Professor Ian Fells's calculation (letter, December 3) that 25,000 wind turbines would be required to produce 10 per cent of the UK's electricity requirement is incorrect. It is infuriating that while we have been in Kyoto offering part of the solution, alarmist figures are trotted out at home.

The Government has a 10 per cent target for electricity from renewable sources. We anticipate meeting half of that by windpower, using around 5,000 turbines. This calculation does not even use the larger 1.5MW machines available "off-the-shelf". 5MW machines are already on designers' computer screens. Using those, perhaps as few as 3,000 windmills would deliver the short-term target for renewable energy.

Yours faithfully
NICK GOODALL, Chief Executive,
British Wind Energy Association,
26 Spring Street, W2.
bwea@gn.apc.org
December 9.

Addressing need for postcodes

From the Head of Operations of the Royal Mail Address Management Centre

Sir, The postcode is an integral part of Royal Mail's national system of delivery instruction, but it is only a part. Mr William Fisher (letter, November 25; see also letters, November 28, December 1 and 3) may succeed in having letters delivered when they bear only a street number and a postcode, but this practice is not reliable and could cause delay.

Minimalist addressing will often mean that these envelopes have to be taken out of automated sorting and dealt with by hand; they can also create confusion at the point of delivery.

The average postcode covers about 15 dwellings, but, as James Ingram points out (letter, November 28), some embrace more than that, and duplicate numbering schemes occur — closes within streets, for example. We request everyone to use a full address with an accurate postcode.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LANCASTER,
Head of Operations,
Royal Mail Address
Management Centre,
4 St George's Business Centre,
St George's Square,
Portsmouth PO1 3AX.
December 5.

From Mr Robert Maxtone Graham

Sir, Some years ago my brother Jamie, having found on his machine a mumbled message asking for a copy of his list of collectable fishing tackle, sent one addressed to "The Occupier, 17 Inaudible Crescent, Alloa".

The grateful customer rang again next day, list in hand, to place an audible order.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MAXTONE GRAHAM,
6 Moat Sole,
Sandwich, Kent.
December 8.

Prostate appeal

From the Chairman of the Prostate Research Campaign UK

Sir, We were delighted to read of the Everyman Christmas Appeal for £40,000 to purchase a gene sequencer for the Institute of Cancer Research laboratory at the Royal Marsden Hospital (details, December 8).

The Times is to be congratulated on this initiative and thanked for its welcome, positive support of this important work on the genetics of prostate cancer. For all too long prostate cancer has had a low profile compared with other tumours.

We are sending to the appeal a donation of £5,000 and trust many members of the public, too, will make their contributions. Our grant will be the third we have made to this outstanding team. The two earlier ones concerned other equipment. The need is undeniable.

How encouraging it would be to see the target set by *The Times* met and exceeded by Christmas.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER S. KIRBY,
Chairman,
Prostate Research Campaign UK,
36 The Drive,
Northwood, Middlesex.
December 8.

Public peril

From Mr Henry R. Douglas

Sir, Jasper Gerard's informant (Diary, December 9) hasn't got it quite right on the Devil and Lady Poltagrue.

Not anonymous, not 18th century, not "*a* devil" and not "one day". The original, *On Lady Poltagrue, A Public Peril*, is:

The Devil, having nothing else to do,
Went off to tempt My Lady Poltagrue.
My Lady, tempted by a private whim,
To his extreme annoyance, tempted him.

Author: Hilaire Belloc, *Sonnets and Verse* (Duckworth, 1923).

Yours faithfully,
HENRY R. DOUGLAS
(Member, Hilaire Belloc Society),
31 Austen Road,
Guildford, Surrey.
December 9.

Taking account

From the Reverend John B. Cairns

Sir, How refreshing, at this particular time of year, to learn from your columns (report, Business, December 4) that the Accounting Standards Board has formulated "Rules for goodwill and intangibles".

In the season of goodwill we learn that "goodwill now cannot bypass the profit and loss account", and further that "unrecognised intangibles included in goodwill will potentially form the basis of a profit and loss charge".

It is to be hoped that the ASB has taken steps to inform Santa Claus prior to his activities on Christmas Eve. 'Tis the season to be jolly and most cheering to learn that goodwill and intangibles stand to be "amortised over their expected lives".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CAIRNS,
Riverside,
5 Kirkton Road, Dumbarton.
December 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 9: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The President of the Republic of Fiji and Adi Lady Lala Mara visited Her Majesty this afternoon and remained to Tea.

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Trustee, this morning attended a meeting of the trustees at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10.

His Royal Highness, Fellow, the Royal Society, this afternoon chaired a meeting of the Project Science Board of Patrons at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening held a Dinner for Charter Founder Members at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Dr Richard Thompson (Head of the Medical Household) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Ralph Southward (former Apothecary to the Household) which was held in The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Hill, London WC2 today.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley RN.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 9: The Prince of Wales today held a Seminar and Lunch at St James's Palace to discuss issues of agriculture, environment and rural development in conjunction with the Agricultural Reform Group.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 9: The Duchess of Kent, President, this afternoon presided at the Congregation of Awards Ceremony at the Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Manchester.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 9: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon visited Lambhill Court Residential Home for the Elderly, 40 Lambhill Street, Kinning Park, Glasgow, and was received by Councillor Susan Baird (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow).

Her Royal Highness, President, and the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy this evening attended a Concert of Christmas Carols and Readings in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in Glasgow Cathedral.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, patron, Tonclass Association, will host a reception at St James's Palace at 3.45.

The Princess Royal, patron, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, will attend a meeting of the International Task Force on Children affected by war and absolute poverty at the college, 50 Hallam Street, London W1, at 3.30; as patron, Association of Combined Youth Clubs, will visit the Fitzrovia Youth in Action Group, The Warren, Whitfield Street, W1, at 6.30; will visit the Marylebone Youth Project, Cosway Street, NW1, at 7.10; and will visit the Mobeley Sports and Education Centre, Kilburn Lane, W10, at 8.15.

The Duke of Kent, patron, London Philharmonic, will attend a concert, Festival Hall, at 7.15.

University news

Westminster

Westminster University has awarded the following honorary degrees:

Doctor of Letters *(honoris causa)*
Margaret Charrington, horticulturalist, marketing consultant and governor of Westminster University
Arie de Geus, economist and organisational behaviourist
Bill Morris, general secretary, TGWU
Ben Okri, Nigerian writer and Booker Prizewinner
Lord Paul, industrialist and philanthropist
Lord Puttnam, film producer
Doctor of Science *(honoris causa)*
Professor Richard Dawkins, scientist and author
Baroness Platt of Writtle, engineer and educationist
Mike Theis, town planner
Keith Williams, engineer and governor of Westminster University
Honorary Fellowship
Frances Moss, accountant and academic.

Memorial service

Sir Ralph Southward

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Dr Richard Thompson, Physician to the Queen and Head of HM Medical Household, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Ralph Southward, former Apothecary to the Queen and to the Royal Household, held yesterday in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott, and the Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley. The Rev John Robson, Chaplain to The Queen, officiated.

Mr Ian Southward, son, read the lesson and *Remember* by Christina Rossetti. Sir Richard Bayliss gave an address.

Members of the family, representatives of Glasgow High School London Club and the Society of Apothecaries of London, former colleagues and many friends were among those present.

Reception

HM Government

Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, and members of the Defence Council were the hosts at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Lancaster House, St James's, to meet the Commonwealth Defence and Service Advisers and Defence and Service Attachés in the UK.

SIMON WALKER

Nesta Jolliff, on the Jacques Amand stand, takes a break from the nativitiy scene to make an important call

Foliage triumphs over flowers

By Alan Toogood
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FOLIAGE has triumphed over flowers at the Royal Horticultural Society's Christmas show, with ivies and topiary receiving the two gold medals awarded.

The ivies, shown by Fibrex Nurseries, of Pebworth, Warwickshire, are mainly trained specimens — standards, like small mop-headed trees, and columns — with a few trailers for contrast. The collection, punctuated by giant tree ferns, *Dicksonia antarctica*, shows the variation in foliage shape and colour — all shades of green and variegated. A new cultivar introduced earlier this year by Fibrex is featured: *Hedera helix* "Silver Misty", a small grower with tiny cream and green variegated leaves, ideal for patio containers.

The topiary, from Romantic Garden Nursery, of Swannington, Norfolk, consists mainly of ball-headed trees, of such subjects as variegated and berrying hollies, *Cedrus deodara* (cedar), *Prunus lusitanica* "Myrtifolia" (Portugal laurel) and *Pinus wallichiana* (pine), plus some impressive spirals of *Cupressus sempervirens* (cypress).

Seasonal flowering pot plants are providing traditional Christmas colour at the show, which opened in Westminster yesterday. Poinsettias are everywhere, not only in rich red, the most popular colour, but in unusual modern colours. D'Arcy & Everest, of Somersham, Cambridgeshire, are showing a range of new red cultivars, "Sonata", "Coco" and "Xenia", as well as new ones in modern colours: "Malibu White" (rich cream) and "Highlight Apricot" (warm pink).

Modern poinsettias are also being shown by W. E. Thomas Ingwersen, of Gravetye, East Sussex, including "Jingle" in red, flecked with pink, creamy pink "Gro Pom" and "Monet", cream, finely speckled red.

Cyclamen also feature strongly. Unusual cultivars are included in the display from Potash Nursery, of Bacton, Suffolk. The flowers of the Gradation Series grade from a strong colour to a lighter shade. Particularly eye-catching are "Gradation Pink" (warm pink), "Gradation Salmon" (salmon pink) and "Gradation" itself (neon pink).

Westfield Cacti, of Kennford, Devon, are showing Christmas cacti and the similar crab cacti. Traditional neon pink cultivars are competing with modern colours such as orange and flame shades, including a newish rich orange cultivar from Denmark, "Thor Vida".

Exhibits of dried flowers and plant material complement the fresh flowers and foliage. One of the more imaginative displays comes from Southcombe Gardens, of Kenton, Devon, whose subtle study in buff, beige, cream and brown shades includes grasses, teasels and even dock seed heads.

The RHS has relaxed the rules for this festive show, so do not be surprised to find some exhibits touched with "frost" or "snow" and several exhibitors in pantomime costumes — the theme this year is Alice in Wonderland. The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Dinners

ICSA

Mr Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, held last night at Guildhall. Mr George Bartlett, president, was in the chair.

Warwickshire Lieutenancy

Mr Martin Dunne, Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, presided at the Warwickshire Lieutenancy's annual dinner held last night at the Judges' House, Northgate Street, Warwick.

Retail Motor Industry Federation

Mrs Sue Brownson, President of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, presided at a dinner held at the Victoria and Albert Museum last night to mark the visit to London by the Scottish Motor Trade Association and the Society of the Irish Motor Industry. The guests included:

Sir Norman Fowler, MP, and Lady Fowler, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, and Lady Fraser, Sir John Houghton, CBE, FRS, and Lady Houghton, Ms Cheryl Gillan, MP, Mr Jack Leeming, Ms Sophia Lambert, Mr and Mrs Roy Ward, Mr and Mrs Michael Snyder, Mr and Mrs Roger Smith, Mr and Mrs Nick Reilly, Mr and Mrs Robin Hulf, Mr and Mrs John Coward, Mr and Mrs Alec Murray, Mr and Mrs Derek Lindop, Mr and Mrs Martin Austin, Mr and Mrs James Hird, Mr and Mrs George MacDonald, Mr and Mrs Victor Hamilton, Mr and Mrs Cyril McHugh, Mr Christopher Brownson, Mr and Mrs Christopher Macgowan and Mr David Evans.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Bradshaw, president of the judges at the trial of King Charles I, Stockport, 1602; Thomas Holcroft, dramatist, London, 1745; George Shaw, naturalist, Bierton, Buckinghamshire, 1751; César Franck, composer, Liège, 1822; Emily Dickinson, poet, Amherst, Massachusetts, 1830; Adolf Loos, architect, Brno, Austria, 1870; Harold Alexander, 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis, Field Marshal, Governor-General of Canada 1946-52, London, 1891.

DEATHS: Paolo Uccello, painter, Florence, 1475; Edmund Gunter, mathematician, London, 1626; Rowland Hill, 1st Viscount Hill, general, 1842; Alfred Nobel, industrialist and founder of the prizes bearing his name, San Remo, 1896; Sir Joseph Hooker, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1865-85, Sunningdale, Berkshire, 1911; Charles Rennie Mackintosh, architect, London, 1928; Luigi Pirandello, dramatist and novelist, Nobel laureate 1934, Rome, 1936; Damon Runyon, short story writer, 1946; Henry Cowell, composer, Shady, New York, 1965; Otis Redding, singer and songwriter, died in an air crash, Lake Monoma, near Madison, Wisconsin, 1967; Jascha Heifetz, violinist, Los Angeles, 1987.

The civil engineer Robert Thompson patented pneumatic tyres, London, 1845.

Cuba became an independent state, 1898.

The first Nobel Prizes were awarded, 1901.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr A.P. Frieze
and Miss S.T. Jowitt**

The engagement is announced between Anthony Paul, son of Dr and Mrs Paul Frieze, of Strawberry Hill, Middlesex, and Susannah Trewlove, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Jowitt, of Ripon, North Yorkshire.

**Mr J.S.W. Grazebrook
and Miss G.J. Peplow**

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Grazebrook, of Gussage St Michael, Dorset, and Gabrielle, daughter of Mr C. Malcolm Peplow and Mrs Elisabeth Hooper, both of the Isle of Wight.

**Mr C.F. Hill
and Miss V.J. Baker**

The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs G.F. Hill, of Cheltenham, and Vanessa, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.G. Baker, of Laxfield, Suffolk.

**Mr E.R. Hughes
and Miss J. Nelson**

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Ron Hughes and the late Susan Hughes, of Newport, Gwent, and Joanna, daughter of Donald and Cheryl Nelson, of London.

**Mr M.R. Pruszewicz
and Miss C.E. Kennedy**

The engagement is announced between Marek, younger son of Mr and Mrs Leonard Pruszewicz, of Reading, Berkshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Kennedy, of Liberton, Edinburgh.

**The Hon Harry Stanley
and Miss S. Kassim-Lakha**

The engagement is announced between Harry, youngest son of Lord and Lady Stanley of Alderley, and Shirin, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Zul Kassim-Lakha, of Brussels.

**Mr B.M. Wiener
and Miss C.A.M. Donner**

The engagement is announced between Barnaby, younger son of Mr Patrick Wiener and Mrs Dinah Wiener, both of London, and Cassandra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Donner, of Kensington, London.

**Major J.D. Jonklaas
and Miss E.J. Harrison-Bright**

The engagement is announced between James, son of the late Mr D.Y. Jonklaas and of Mrs Jonklaas, of Riseley, Bedfordshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Keith Bright, of London, and Mrs Patricia Harrison-Bright, of Woodend, West Sussex.

**Mr A.P. Wilson
and Miss A.J. Duthie**

The engagement is announced between Andrew Philip, elder son of Mr and Mrs Colin Wilson, of Headingley, Leeds, and Abbey Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Duthie, of Pollokshields, Glasgow.

Marriages

**Mr D.H. FitzHerbert
and Miss S.A. Wijeyaratne**

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 6, at Christ Church, Kensington, of Mr David FitzHerbert, son of the late Mr Yvo FitzHerbert and of Mrs FitzHerbert, of Somerford Farm, Brinkworth, Wiltshire, to Miss Sonali Wijeyaratne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Mervyn Wijeyaratne, of Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Rev Michael Fuller officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Anusha Wijeyaratne, the Hon Rosanna Lyttelton, Harriet Elton, Larnikai Torrens, Luke FitzHerbert and Rufus Loveridge. Mr Anthony Bailey was best man.

A reception was held at Brooks's and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

**Mr P.A. Legrave
and Miss S.J. Quinlan**

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 6, at All Saints, Fulham, between Mr Paul Legrave, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Legrave, of Broadstairs, and Miss Shelagh Quinlan, daughter of the late Rev Dermot Quinlan and of Mrs Edna Quinlan, of Uppingham. Prebendary Kenneth N. Bowler officiated.

Today's birthdays

Judge Shirley Anwyl, QC, 57; Mr John Birt, Director-General, BBC, 53; Mr Kenneth Branagh, actor and director, 37; Sir John Collins, chief executive, Vestey Group of Companies, 56; Professor B.W. Cunliffe, FBA, former president, Society of Antiquaries of London, 58; Mrs Ann Gloag, co-founder, Stagecoach Holdings, 55; Miss Rumer Godden, writer, 90; Lord Harris of High Cross, 73; Mr Nicholas Henderson, racehorse trainer, 47; Lord Jopling, 67; Sir David Kelly, former president, National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, 61; Miss J.M. Kenworthy, Principal, St Mary's College, Durham, 64; Mr Jahangir Khan, squash player, 34; Mr Nicolas Kynaston, organist, 56.

Mr James McAdam, chairman, Signet Group, 67; Mr Raphael Maklouf, sculptor, 60; Sir Jeremy Morse, former chairman, Lloyds Bank, 69; Professor Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, Southampton University, 50; Sir John Peel, former Surgeon-Gynaecologist to The Queen, 93; Mr T.S. Roberts, former chairman, Milford Haven Conservancy Board, 86; Sir Angus Stirling, former Director-General, National Trust, 64; Mr C.W. Turner, former Rector, Glasgow Academy, 64; Mr M.T. Wright, former director, National Heritage Memorial Fund, 61.

Latest wills

Phyllis Annie Dickson of Crowthorne, Berkshire, left estate valued at £521,365 net.

Alec George Jones, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £499,691 net.

Charles Francis Kenyon Goldthorpe, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £515,125 net.
He left £25,000 to the RSPCA.

Richard Francis Ransom, of Madingley, Cambridge, left estate valued at £580,422 net.

Dorothea Mary Gilpin, of Peterborough, left estate valued at £601,952 net.

Billene Love Walker, of Kingsbury, London NW9, left estate valued at £545,169 net.

Peter Lowe, of St John's Wood, London NW8, left estate valued at £575,097 net.

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Exult in his hallowed name: let those who seek the Lord be joyful in heart. Look to the Lord and be strong; at all times seek his presence. Psalm 105 : 3,4

BIRTHS

ALEXANDROFF - On December 5th in Singapore, to Alessandra (née Ross) and James, a daughter, Justina Fleur, a sister for Jack, Isabella and Nico.

BEARE - On December 3rd, to Deborah (née Hurdle) and Simon, a son, Alexander Michael Venton. Brother for Matthew, birthday present for Dad.

BURTON - On December 7th, to Kim (née Barndon) and Glen, of Glenroy via Walpole, Western Australia, a son, Ethan.

CLEZY - On 3rd December, to John and Gabrielle, a son, John Samuel Alexander, a brother for Maria.

D'AMOURS - On November 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Karen (née Brady) and Kevin, a daughter, Rachel Kate.

DIXON - On December 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Anna (née Millsom) and Tony, a son, Oliver Jordan, a brother for Eloise.

DONT - On December 8th, at Queen Charlotte's, to Clare (née Tinney) and Sebastien, a daughter, Eloise Clementine.

FARQUHARSON - On December 4th, to Catriona (née Rose) and Donald, a daughter, Isobel Rose, a sister for Rory and Archie.

FRESSON - On December 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Serena and Michael, a daughter, Elinor Violet, a sister for Alice, George and Beatrice.

HARRIS - On December 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Elise (née Thirley) and Nigel, a daughter, Anoushka Rachel.

HOLY-HASTED - On December 8th, to Angela (née Caratti) and the late William, a son, (William Richard). Brandisstrasse 50, 8702 Zollikon, Switzerland.

MEYRING - On December 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Michele and Heiner, a daughter, Anna Christine, a sister for Julie.

MICHAEL - On December 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Olympia and Michael, a son, Christian.

MITCHELL - On December 7th 1997, to Susie (née Woods) and John, a daughter, a sister for Annabel, Alexander and George.

MONTFORD - On 1st December 1997, at home in Bali, to Komang and Edward, a son, Luke Dira.

PRATLEY - On 30th November in Klinikum Kreis Herford, Germany, to Stephanie (née Hall) and Philip, a son, Marcus James, a brother for Alexander.

BIRTHS

REYNOLDS - On 8th December, to Elspeth (née Small) and Peter, a son, Calum Graham.

SHAH - On December 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Sharon (née Mawhinney) and Amit, a delightful son, Matthew Thomas Amit.

WICKHAM - On November 29th in Nottingham, to Caroline and Stephen, a son, Jack Arthur.

WILMOT - On December 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Christine Hammond and Tomas Wilmot, a son, Tomas.

YOUNG - On 5th December, to Sarah (née Gbedemah) and David, a daughter, Grace Ellen Afiwa, a sister for Sam and Alice.

DEATHS

ALDER - Terence David (Terry) passed away on 22nd November aged 64, after a short illness characteristically borne with great courage, humour and dignity. His beloved wife Janet, children and grandchildren will miss him deeply and love him always.

ALLAN - Douglas Lacey (Doug) on 4th December 1997 died peacefully at The Close Nursing Home, Burcot, Oxon. Loving husband of Jo and father of Bridget, Judy, John and Viki. Funeral at 3 pm Friday 12th December 1997 at Oxford Crematorium. Family flowers only please, if desired, donations to The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association c/o P.L. Barrett, 81 Ock Street, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 5AG.

BALLARD - Adair (Adelaine) on 8th December 1997 aged 73. Much loved wife of Geoffrey, mother of Hilary, Claire and Arabella and grandmother of Victoria, Charlotte, Lucy, Victoria and James. Funeral at Copford, nr. Colchester on Friday 12th December 1997 at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St Helena's Hospice c/o W.H. Shephard, 93-94 High Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 1TH.

BALL - On Friday 5th December aged 75 peacefully after a courageous fight against cancer, John Ball, Founder of Belvedere. Tel: (01672) 512060.

BORRETT - Frances Isobel Borrett peacefully in her sleep on December 7th 1997. Funeral Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Chieveley, Newbury, Berkshire on Monday 15th December at 3 pm. Flowers may be sent to Camp Hopson Funeral Directors, 90 West Street, Newbury, tel: (01635) 522210.

DEATHS

BOYS - On 6th December, 1997, Thelma, most beloved wife of Tony, a devoted and much loved aunt and great-aunt. Requiem Mass on 15th December at 2 pm at the Carmelite Church, Kensington Church Street, W8, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. "And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and to know the place for the first time".

BRODIE - Suddenly on Saturday 6th December 1997 aged 70 years, Hugh Gregor, beloved husband of Jean, father of Andrew and Diana, grandfather of Lill. The funeral service will be held at St Peter's Church, Hersham on Wednesday 17th December at 1.30 pm. Floral tributes or donations to RNLI if desired and all enquiries to F.W. Chitty & Co., 26 Brassey House, New Zealand Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 1QD, tel: (01932) 254255.

CHAMBERS - On 6th December 1997 peacefully after a long illness cheerfully and courageously borne. Roland Moncrieff M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S., aged 77 years. Beloved husband of Bunty. The funeral service will be held at St Peter & St Paul Church, Market Overton on Friday December 12th at 2.30 pm followed by interment in the churchyard. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to the Rutland Memorial Hospital c/o E.M. Dorman Funeral Director, 10 Main Street, Bisbrooke, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9EP.

CHAMBERLAYNE - (née Kerr). Euphemia (Phemie), on 5th December 1997, at Tullynally, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath, Ireland. Wife of the late Air Commodore Paul (Tanks) Tankerville Chamberlayne of Chamberlainstown, Kells, Co. Meath. Devoted mother of Pilly and Michael. Beloved grandmother and great-grandmother and most dear mother-in-law. Burial on Thursday, 11th December at Chamberlainstown.

CHATER - Shirley, widow of Michael, mother of Simon, James and Mark, peacefully on Saturday 6th December 1997 after a long illness bravely borne. Service at the Minster, Ilminster, Somerset on Friday 12th December at 10 am followed by cremation at Yeovil 11 am. Family flowers only, donations to Save the Children.

CHUBB - Jean Bartram, wife of Major Teddy Chubb, mother of Susan, grandmother of Emma, Richard and Victoria. Peacefully at her home on 6th December 1997. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Buckden, Cambs. on Tuesday 16th December at 2 pm, followed by interment at Buckden Cemetery. All enquiries to William Peacock & Sons, Orchard Lane, Huntingdon, Cambs. tel: (01480) 453882.

DICKSON - Alistair de Courcy peacefully on December 9th aged 90. Beloved husband of the late Betty, much loved father of Rosemary and grandfather of Lucinda, Sam and William. Service at Guildford Crematorium on Tuesday 16th December at 2pm. Family flowers only.

DRAKE - J.R.F. Drake (Jack) V.M.H. late of Inshriach Alpine Plant Nursery Aviemore aged 88 on 4th December 1997 peacefully at Crewkerne. Cremation at Yeovil Crematorium Friday 12th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, donations to World Wildlife Fund for Nature c/o A.J. Wakely & Sons, Chapel House, Hermitage Street, Crewkerne TA18 8ES.

EDGE - Captain George OBE MN of Accrington Lancashire. Peacefully on November 24th 1997 aged 92. Loving husband of the late Ena and father of Katharine and William.

FRANKLIN - Dr. Colin, OBE, in the love of God and of his family and friends. Died at the Royal London Hospital on Friday 5th December 1997. Funeral on Saturday 13th December at St John of Jerusalem Church, Lauriston Road, E9, at 10 am, followed by Commendation and Committal at the City of London Crematorium, Aldersbrook Road, E12, at 11.45 am. Further information from Prideaux House on 0181-986 6000. No flowers, donations in lieu towards the work of St Joseph's Hospice, Mare Street, E8 4SA or Prideaux House, 10 Church Crescent, E9 7DL.

GYANI - Jagmohan Singh, on 6th December 1997 at home with his family as he wished. Beloved husband of Shanti, loving father of Prem, Onita, Angeli, Heidi and Karl and a magical Babaji to Alex and Oliver. He will be sadly missed. Cremation will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on 12th December 1997 at 11 am. Floral tributes or donations to Macmillan Nurse Care c/o Andrew Holmes & Son, 92 Whitton Road, Hounslow, TW3 2DQ, tel: (0181) 572-3277.

HODGSON - Jane Messer on December 6th peacefully in Exeter aged 95, beloved wife of the late Charles and mother of David. Dearly loved by her family and friends. Funeral Service at Newton St Cyres Church on Monday December 15th at 12 noon to be followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired for RNLI c/o A. White & Sons, Peoples Park Road, Crediton, Devon.

JOHNSON - Rosemary (née Gedye) at home on December 8th, aged 58 years, from cancer courageously borne. Dear wife of Colin, mother of Caroline and Louise and grandmother of Natalie and Alexander. Private funeral and cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be announced later. No flowers, please. Donations in her memory to Victim Support, Charity Number 298028 c/o Y. Burke, National Fundraiser, Cranmer House, 39 Brixton Road, London SW9 6DZ.

KLEBOE - Kay died suddenly but peacefully on December 6th 1997 aged 80. Much loved wife of David, mother of Michele and Charlotte, grandmother of Jo, Victoria, Millie, Nick and Meg, and great-grandmother of Aaron. Funeral at Weston-super-Mare Crematorium on Tuesday 16th December at 11.30 am. No flowers please, instead donations to SSAFA, Weston-super-Mare c/o The Elms Funeral Directors, 50 Baker Street, Weston-super-Mare, tel: 01934 616006.

MABBOTT - John Edward on December 5th 1997 aged 85 years of Shrewsbury. Funeral Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Wednesday December 17th at 2.40 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations for the League of Friends at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Enquiries please to the funeral directors tel: (01743) 344646.

MASEFIELD - Veronica Margery nee Hawke widow of Jack mother of Delphinia and the late Jacqueline and Camilla adored grandmother of Leander Hereward and Innogen died 4th December. She was very brave. Funeral 11am Saturday 20th December at Harting Church. Family flowers.

MELLERS - On December 7th 1997 John Mellers suddenly at home. Much loved and sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at Oxford Crematorium on Monday December 15th at 2pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the RSPCA. All enquiries to Camp Hopson Funeral Directors, 90 West Street, Newbury, tel: (01635) 522210.

MOUNCER - On 6th December 1997 suddenly Alan Joseph aged 68 years of Old Manor, Mere. A devoted husband, special father and beloved by all his family and many friends. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him. A Roman Catholic Funeral Mass will be held at Mere Parish Church on Monday 15th December at 1 pm. Flowers or if desired donations for Salisbury Hospital Leukaemia Fund or Coronary Care Unit may be sent c/o Hill & Son, Funeral Directors, Water Street, Mere, Wilts. Tel: 01747 860361.

MYERS - On 6th December 1997 Brigadier Edmund Charles Wolf (Eddie) C.B.E., D.S.O. Husband of Lutie (died 1995) and father of Thalia. A Service of Thanksgiving 2 pm Friday, 19th December at St Paul's Church, Broadwell, Glos. Please send no flowers. Donations if wished to be divided between Broadwell Church and The Royal Engineers Benevolent Fund may be left at the Church or sent to W.J. Wright, Funeral Director, Well Lane, Stow on the Wold, GL54 2AR.

NEWELL - Drusilla (née Mathews) on December 5th aged 88 years. Peacefully at Bod Hyfryd Nursing Home, Flint. Beloved widow of Keith formerly of Neston, Cheshire, mother of Rosalie, Richard, Stephen and Peter. Grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at Neston Parish Church on Monday December 15th at 1pm. Family flowers only.

ROBINSON - On December 8th Aubrey Clare in his 95th year. Much loved by his wife the late Mollie Panter-Downes, by his daughters Virginia and Diana and by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral Service to be held at St Mary's Chiddingfold on Monday December 15th at 3.30 pm. Flowers to J. Gorringe & Son, 55 Hare Lane, Farncombe, Surrey.

ROBOTHAM - Jeanne (née Ekins) on 6th December after a long illness, dearly loved mother of Susan, Nicholas, Stephen and grandmother of Alexander, Nicholas, Andrew, Christopher and Julia. Funeral Monday 15th December 4.40 pm at Charing Crematorium, Ashford. Flowers or donations if desired to Parkinson's Disease c/o Doves, 115 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1BY, tel: (01233) 643000.

SASSOON - Evelyn on 7th December at Nassau, Bahamas, widow of Sir Victor Sassoon Bt. G.B.E. Funeral 11am Saturday 13th December at Trinity Methodist Church, Nassau. Family flowers only but donations in lieu may be sent to the Sir Victor Sassoon (Bahamas) Heart Foundation, PO Box N1706, Nassau, Bahamas.

SHAW - Eleanor Daisy (née Horne) passed away suddenly on Thursday 4th December. A loving wife of the late Harold Watkins Shaw. The funeral service will take place at Worcester Crematorium on Friday 12th December at 12.30 pm. No flowers please but donations if so desired to The Musician's Benevolent Fund c/o Bedwardine Funeral Services, 1 St Johns, Worcester, tel: (01905) 748811.

SHIELD - Winifred, widow of Arnold Shield (former executive with the Halifax Building Society). Much loved mother of Carolyn and Vivien. Funeral will take place, Friday December 12th at St Cuby Church, Tregony, Cornwall.

STENHAM - Anthony on November 29th unexpectedly aged 52, beloved son, father, brother, uncle.

SUMNER - Muriel Eveline died peacefully on Sunday 7th December 1997. Funeral Service private. Memorial Service at Buckfast Abbey to be arranged.

TAYLOR - On December 7th 1997, peacefully, Reginald Walter aged 91 years. Of Croston, Lancs., formerly of Poole and Enfield, loving father of John, grandfather of Paul and Alison. Enquiries to Messrs. B. Livesey Ltd. Tel: (01257) 262602.

TUFNELL - Timothy on December 8th 1997 aged 77. Peacefully after a long illness. Funeral at St Michael and All Angels, Sunninghill, on Friday December 12th at 12 noon. No flowers but donations may be made to The Forces Help Society, 122 Brompton Road, SW3 or the Order of St John, St John's Gate, St John's Lane, EC1M 4DA. A Memorial Service will be announced.

WELBURN - Elizabeth suddenly on Saturday 6th December 1997. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium at 11.30 am on Saturday 13th December. All enquiries to Robert Ayling Funeral Services, tel: (01483) 567333.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

FERGUSSON - Mary Isolen (Molly). A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held at St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh on 5th January 1998 at 1 pm. All friends and former colleagues are welcome.

OWEN - Dale Owen D.L. died 12th November 1997. Service of Thanksgiving at 11 am on Saturday December 13th 1997 at All Saints Church, Penarth.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BAILLIEU - This is to honour the memory of James George Baillieu who was born in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales on 13th March 1832 and died at Camberwell, Victoria, Australia on 10th December 1897. He went to sea at the age of 17 years and arrived at Port Phillip Heads in January 1853. After swimming from the quarantine Station he landed at Point Lonsdale on 18th February 1853. For nearly 45 years he was a proud resident of Queenscliff and also a proud pioneer of the colony of Victoria. "Write me as one who loves his fellow men" (Inserted by David Baillieu on behalf of many descendants and relatives in this country and abroad).

BROWN - Peggye Melinda. So sadly missed. We had a wonderful time together. Remembered with love every day. Leslie.

COVEN - In cherished memory of Raia, very loved mamma, December 10th 1957. Frank and Edwina.

XMAS GREETINGS

GODFREY and BESS Talbot regret they are unable to send Christmas cards this year but send love and good wishes to all

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BRIGADIER E. C. W. MYERS

Brigadier E. C. W. Myers, CBE, DSO, died on December 6 aged 91. He was born on October 12, 1906.

In September 1942, a month before the Battle of El Alamein, acting Brigadier Eddie Myers was working in the Combined Operations branch of GHQ, Cairo, when a member of Lord Glenconner's Special Operations Executive came into his office and asked him to volunteer to lead a demolition team. This was to be dropped into Greece to blow up the great Gorgopotamos railway viaduct, thus cutting the main German supply line to the Piraeus and thence to Rommel's Africa Korps. Despite being within a fortnight of going home after seven years' service in the Middle East, and with only five training parachute jumps to his credit, the 36-year-old Myers accepted the challenge.

The plan was that he should contact the Greek Resistance bands in the mountains southwest of Lamia. After completing their mission, the team was to be rescued by submarine from the west coast. Despite a difficult drop, Myers managed to link up with General Zervas's right-wing EDES and with their rivals, the left-wing ELAS under "Aris" (the Communist, Athanasios Klaras). Surprisingly, in the light of subsequent events, Myers won the confidence of both Greek commanders and led them in the highly successful combined attack on the Gorgopotamos viaduct, driving off its strong Italian garrison and cutting Rommel's supply line for six critical weeks during his retreat from El Alamein.

Much to the team's disappointment, the submarine rescue had to be cancelled, and Myers was directed to set up a British Military Mission to the Resistance forces in the mountains. He was to expand, arm, train and direct the operations of the *andarte* (Greek resistance fighters) in harassing the Axis occupation forces. He became aware much sooner than anyone in Cairo or London that Aris's ELAS bands were the military wing of the communist-dominated EAM, a grouping of left-wing political parties in Athens, which was intent on turning Greece into a socialist, if not a communist, republic.

It took all of Myers's very considerable negotiating skills to stop the rival bands fighting each other instead of the Germans. Using his ability to turn off the RAF supply drops to any recalcitrant bands, he proposed and managed to enforce a "National Bands" agreement, whereby Zervas and Aris accepted the operational direction of C-in-C Middle East and refrained from attacking each other during Myers's time in Greece.

In the spring of 1943 the deception plan for the Allied invasion of Sicily called for a maximum harassing effort in Greece to divert Axis attention eastwards. Myers organised an intensive and widespread sabotage campaign with the willing co-operation of Zervas and Aris, but they were not prepared to tackle the German-held Asopos railway viaduct, which Myers hoped to destroy.

The British members of his team, however, succeeded in blowing the viaduct up themselves by stealth and with the help of local Greek villagers, using an almost impossible approach through the difficult river gorge below the bridge. Such was the severity of the damage that the main Athens railway was closed for four months.

By the summer of 1943 Myers was reporting on the dangers of civil war if the Greek government-in-exile in Cairo was not widened to include representatives of the mountain bands, and if no announcement was made that a national plebiscite on the monarchy would be held before King George II was allowed to return to Greece. Unfortunately, the tenor of Myers's reporting ran counter to strongly held Foreign Office views, and contrary to Churchill's wish to re-establish the monarchy when the Germans evacuated Athens.

Myers left Greece for Cairo at the beginning of August 1943 in an RAF Dakota from a secretly constructed airstrip, accompanied by four delegates from the mountain bands, to explore the way ahead and to impress upon the British and Greek authorities the dangers of civil war, if more attention was not paid to political feelings within the country as opposed to those of the government-in-exile.

Myers soon found that he was addressing deaf ears. The mountain delegates returned to Greece frustrated and angry, and the civil war that Myers so feared started almost at once. Myers himself was flown back to London for consultations. He had long talks with Churchill, Eden and King George VI but, much to his distress, he could not bring about any change of policy. In Whitehall, he was deemed to have helped to precipitate the crisis by being too pro-ELAS. In fact, he had been trying to be realistic about the strength and determination of those Greeks who did not wish to see the return of the monarchy and were prepared to fight for a republic.

Myers was not allowed to return to Greece. Unhappily, his forecasts proved all too accurate when the communist rebellion broke out soon after the liberation of Athens in the autumn of 1944, resulting in the equivalent of three divisions of British troops being diverted from the Italian front to re-establish the authority of the Greek Government.

Edmund Charles Wolf Myers was the son of Dr C. S. Myers, consultant psychologist to the British Expeditionary Force in the First World War and the first Professor of Psychology at Cambridge University. His mother was Edith Seligman, daughter of Isaac Seligman, an eminent Jewish banker. He was educated at Haileybury, the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and at Caius College Cambridge; and he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1926. A fine horseman and an amateur pilot as well as being a highly intelligent and forceful personality, he enjoyed his prewar soldiering in the Middle East, where he first saw active service during the Arab revolt in Palestine. He then commanded the 2nd (Cheshire) Field Company in 7th Armoured Division in the Western Desert during Wavell's 1941 offensive, which drove the Italians out of Cyrenaica. After attending the Staff College, Haifa, he was employed in Combined Operations until he went to Greece.

Back in England, after his year in the Greek mountains, he continued to work for the Special Operations Executive in preparation for Overlord, but as soon as the Normandy invasion took place he was appointed Commander Royal Engineers of 1st Airborne Division and dropped at Arnhem, where he organised the rescue of the survivors across the Lower Rhine. He also took part in the Airborne Division's liberation of Norway.

In the aftermath of the war he was Mountbatten's Deputy Director of Intelligence in the Far East, dealing with the problems of the re-occupation of the British, French and Dutch territories. He seemed destined to become an intelligence specialist when he was appointed Senior Military Representative on the Joint Intelligence Bureau in London, but soon after the Korean War began, he found himself Commander Royal Engineers in the Commonwealth Division on the Imjin River in 1951-52.

His last three appointments in the Army were: senior Army Instructor at the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, 1952-55; Chief Engineer, British Troops Egypt, 1955-56; and Deputy Director of Personnel Administration in the War Office, 1957-59.

After he retired in 1959 he had a successful second career in the civil engineering industry. He had found time to publish in 1955 an account of his exploits in Greece in his book, *Greek Entanglement*.

On his return from Greece in 1943, he married Louisa Sweet-Escott, who had also been working for SOE in Cairo. She died in 1995. He is survived by their daughter.

ALLEN WRIGHT

Allen Wright, arts editor and theatre critic, died after a long illness on November 16 aged 65. He was born on February 22, 1932.

A GENERATION of young theatre hopefuls who ventured north to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to take their first public steps on the boards owe a debt of gratitude to Allen Wright. For nearly 30 years arts editor of *The Scotsman*, he took their work seriously and devoted proper space to reviewing it. He also inaugurated the Fringe First awards, which have become a badge of distinction throughout the drama world.

Allen Wright, born and brought up in Edinburgh, was the son of a civil servant. Educated at George Watson's College, he joined *The Scotsman* straight from school as a "tube boy" — named after the tubes through which copy travelled to the composing room in the days before computers. Many distinguished journalists started in this way, but Wright was told by the then editor that he had no future as a reporter because he was not a graduate.

He was to prove this forecast completely wrong. After National Service in the Royal Tank Regiment, 1950-52, he returned to *The Scotsman* and remained there for the rest of his working life, becoming an outstanding reporter and eventually deputy news editor as well as film critic.

In 1965 Alastair Dunnett, by then in the paper's editorial chair, appointed Wright arts editor — at the time something of an innovation. Over the next few years, with the Edinburgh Festival establishing itself as a fixture on the international calendar, Wright ensured that *The Scotsman* had the most comprehensive coverage.

He was an early champion of the case for a Scottish National Theatre, and he was a strong supporter of new Scottish drama at the Traverse and the Citizens. One of his heroes was J. M. Barrie, of whom he wrote a biography, *Glamour of Twilight*.

As the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe expanded during the 1970s and 1980s, Wright presided over an astonishing newspaper operation, running single-handedly a vast team of reviewers who between them covered as many as 800 shows in the course of the three-week festival run. A special daily supplement had to be produced, which he controlled from a desk groaning beneath the weight of undisciplined piles of paper. One *Scotsman* editor, retreating in horror from the sight, described it as an environmental hazard, but a suggestion that it might all be done by computer was politely ignored. Despite the apparent chaos, the right critic was always assigned to the right production, and each week a list of Fringe First winners emerged.

Wright was a journalist of the old school who believed in courtesy, kindness, and the need to help and encourage young colleagues learning the trade. He preferred gentle persuasion to outright confrontation. But he had an uncanny knack of getting his own way. Editors who sought to impose views with which he disagreed would discover, for reasons they could never quite fathom, that an alternative course of action had, in the end, been adopted. It usually worked better than the one they had suggested.

A keen golfer, Wright had been looking forward to retirement, but suffered a stroke in 1993 which brought his career prematurely to an end. It also had the distressing effect of impairing his speech. Nevertheless, he remained cheerful and courageous throughout a gradual deterioration.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, and their three daughters.

BARBARA

Barbara (Monique Serf), French singer, died as a result of a lung infection on November 25 aged 67. She was born on June 9, 1930.

BARBARA was one of the few French singers outside the realm of pop whose career spanned two generations with equal success: those who more or less grew up with her in the 1950s and 1960s, and their children, in the 1980s. Whether in the 60-seater cabaret L'Ecluse in 1957, or before the 100,000 who came to listen in the Hippodrome de Pantin in 1981, she managed to develop a bond with her audience epitomised in one of her most famous songs, *Ma plus belle histoire d'amour c'est vous*, itself written in response to public acclaim.

It was, again untypically for popular vocalists, a relationship seemingly devoid of narcissism on the singer's part: she responded personally to her fans, became friends with many, and was always discreet in her benevolence. At home in Précy sur Marne, she would make anonymous donations to buy Christmas presents for the children of the village, and she was a regular and generous visitor to prisons and hospitals.

More publicly, in a country which was late to come to terms with the issue, Barbara was one of the first French stars to campaign for Aids awareness and even used to carry around boxes of contraceptives for her young fans.

Born in Paris to a Polish mother and Russian father, both Jewish, she spent the war years in hiding with her family before settling in Le Vésinet, just outside Paris. She studied classical music as a free student at the Conservatoire, and her growing interest in song led her to a first light opera role and, in 1949, the hesitant beginnings of a singing career. These were unglamorous if instructive: she spent a year washing up and observing other artistes at Pierre Prévert's cabaret, La Fontaine des Quatre Saisons, singing whenever and wherever she could. Then came a two-year stint in Brussels, where she opened her own rather unsuccessful cabaret in a bar.

Artistically she was already on her way to the cross between music hall and *intimiste* Left Bank artiness that would become her trademark. Her first week at L'Ecluse came in 1952, and was to be followed by a six-year period there starting in 1957. This was when she confirmed her artistic identity: dressed in black, "the colour of joy, of the evening, of night, of flamboyance, of dignity, of danger, of seduction, of sorrow, too, of course", sitting behind her piano and singing songs of loss, loneliness and absence.

By 1959 she had begun to add her own compositions to a repertoire that included, among others, songs by Brassens, Aznavour, Moustaki, MacOrlan and the writers of the French realist and comic traditions. Her first LP — and one of her finest recordings — was *Barbara chante Barbara*.

The style was instantly recognisable: the voice, high and flutey or, with age, deeper and more jazzy, singing or half-speaking the words that seemed to crowd the traditional dance rhythms. The timing and expressive control were extremely precise. It was, compared to many others, an intellectual manner, but always steeped in intense, often dramatic, feeling. By the same token it was not a style that travelled especially well outside France — although she did make one album in German, *Barbara singt*.

The 1960s saw Barbara's audience and reputation grow progressively. She went from L'Ecluse to the larger Bobino, embarked on a European tour in 1967, and then headlined at Olympia in 1969. There she announced her retirement from the stage. It was to last only three years, during which time she continued to write and record, and made a number of films, including *Franz*, with Jacques Brel. The return to touring coincided with her move away from Paris to Précy.

On her return to the stage, Barbara's still growing audience began to get younger. It was now that she became something of an icon. One of her songs was dedicated to President François Mitterrand, and in 1986 she performed on stage with Gérard Depardieu, playing the piano as he recited her texts.

Her own performances had an almost liturgical quality to them: she would begin by moving intently towards the audience, palms open and upraised. The last, at the Théâtre du Châtelet in 1993, had to be called off after a few days because she was repeatedly ill with pulmonary infections. They were followed by a double live album and, last year, *Il me revient en mémoire*, one of the bestsellers of her career.

An early marriage was dissolved. There were no children.

ON THIS DAY

December 10, 1942

In war, as in peace, failure can produce heroes just as easily as success. The attempted landing at Oran on the North African coast was an example.

HEROES OF ORAN.

Part of the plan for the Anglo-American landing at Oran on November 8 was the entry into the harbour, cutting through the boom which closed the entrance, of H.M. ships Walney and Hartland closely packed with British and American troops and seamen. The Walney was to go right to the end of the harbour farthest from the entrance, and her troops were to seize the French Naval Headquarters there. The Hartland was to go alongside the first pier, the troops she carried were to silence the battery of 4.7in. guns at the entrance to the harbour, and the seamen were to secure the many merchant ships, to prevent the blocking of the harbour by their being scuttled. Neither object was achieved, since the defences proved to be alert and determined. Both ships, as has been announced, were sunk with heavy casualties. Two officers of HMS Hartland, Lieutenant V.A. Hickson, R.N., the first lieutenant, and Lieutenant R. Billbrough, senior engineer officer, yesterday gave to Press representatives a vivid, personal account of their experiences, which was all the more impressive to their audience for the modesty of the narrators. The only trace of emotion in Mr. Hickson's narrative was when he was speaking of his captain's — Lieutenant-Commander G. P. Billot, R.N.R. — steadfast determination, in spite of seven wounds, leaving him with but one eye and one arm available, first, to carry out the task allotted to his ship, and later, when she was clearly sinking, not to leave until all his surviving men had been got away ... There was nothing to be done but abandon ship — except that the Chief Engine Room Artificer first crawled along to see how hot the magazine bulkhead was, before the vessel blew up. The captain demanded to be rowed out of the harbour so that he might be picked up by a British ship outside rather than be taken prisoner. But his wounds demanded early attention, and he was taken ashore.

"WE DIG, DIG, DIG"

An R.A.F. officer, who had been interned in a camp in Algeria, told the following story after his release by allied forces:- The camp ran a concert party. In one of its shows there was a turn based on the song, "We dig, dig, dig," from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The song was sung by the chorus, consisting of eight men. The camp commandant and other French officers in the audience were highly amused by the sketch. So were the internees, for at that time they were excavating a 70-yard escape tunnel, and while the concert was in progress all who could be spared were digging as hard as they could go.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WITH Grateful thanks to The Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude for favours received. N.M.O.

GOULD Janette would like to thank everyone for their kindness, comfort and support following the unexpected death of Hilda. My superman and very best friend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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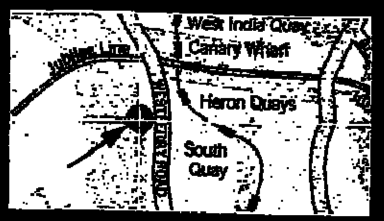

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Rachel Kelly finds that homes without doorsteps are no joking matter for the disabled, and explains a cradle-to-grave design concept

The ultimate push-button 'smart' house unveiled

Some may have scoffed last week at news that new homes are to be built without doorsteps, but the need for houses with "level thresholds" is a serious matter for John Reynolds.

Mr Reynolds, a builder, is the father of a grown-up disabled son and one of the driving forces behind a mould-breaking house in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. From the outside, this Victorian terraced cottage is almost indistinguishable from its neighbours. But the observant will notice the absence of a doorstep — essential for those who need to manoeuvre a wheelchair.

Inside is the ultimate "smart" house for the disabled. Windows open and doors close at the touch of a button. Kitchen worktops can be lowered. The bathroom has a hot-air body drier for those who cannot struggle with a towel. The bath can be filled to a predetermined level by pressing another button.

It sounds like a state-of-the art home for James Bond. In fact all of the devices on show are standard items of equipment that can help the disabled to live normal lives.

Mr Reynolds's son Christopher, who suffers from cerebral palsy, attended the local Rockley Mount School for the disabled. "We parents often talked about the need for a place where the children could be independent, where they could go for the day to learn how to cook and wash up," says Mr Reynolds. "Eventually, we decided to buy a house and try to adapt it."

To that end they formed the Rockley House Trust with members from Rockley Mount School, Barnsley District General Hospital, Barnsley Community and Priority Services NHS Trust and Barnsley Health Authority. Charities provided funds to buy a property, and the equipment was donated by manufacturers and suppliers.

JOHN HOULIHAN/GUZELIAN

Dr Mark Hawley (left) in one of three lifts inside the high-tech cottage in Barnsley

The house the trust chose was bought in 1994. A three-bedroom cottage typical of the district was chosen rather than a a newly built bungalow farther from the children's existing homes.

"If you become disabled, you are often required to move house whereas it might be better to stay near your friends and relatives," says Dr Mark Hawley of Barnsley District Hospital.

"Most disabled people in Barnsley live in houses like this. We wanted to show what is possible in a normal setting."

The £140,000 cost of conversion was met by local charitable donations and a £10,000 donation from the Prince's Trust. Manufacturers were excited at the prospect of being able to show their products in a small domestic setting, and happy to work with the Rockley Trust.

The first problem was how to control the doors, lights, heating, and appliances such as washing machines and microwave ovens in a way that was easier than using standard switches. The answer was to combine a small laptop device — operated either manually or by moving the head — with building technology more usually used to control office blocks.

Laptop models such as the Possum travelling companion had previously been suitable only for use in one or two rooms. Thanks to the office building technology, provided by Siemens, a laptop can now control nearly all the equipment in the Barnsley house. It emits an infra-red signal which is picked up by sensors in the ceiling. These transmit the messages to a receiver that activates the equipment.

There are other innovations. The kitchen sink, for example, has red and blue panels at the front instead of taps. There is a touch-control shower. The house's only failure is its inability to get beds and chairs to slide on command.

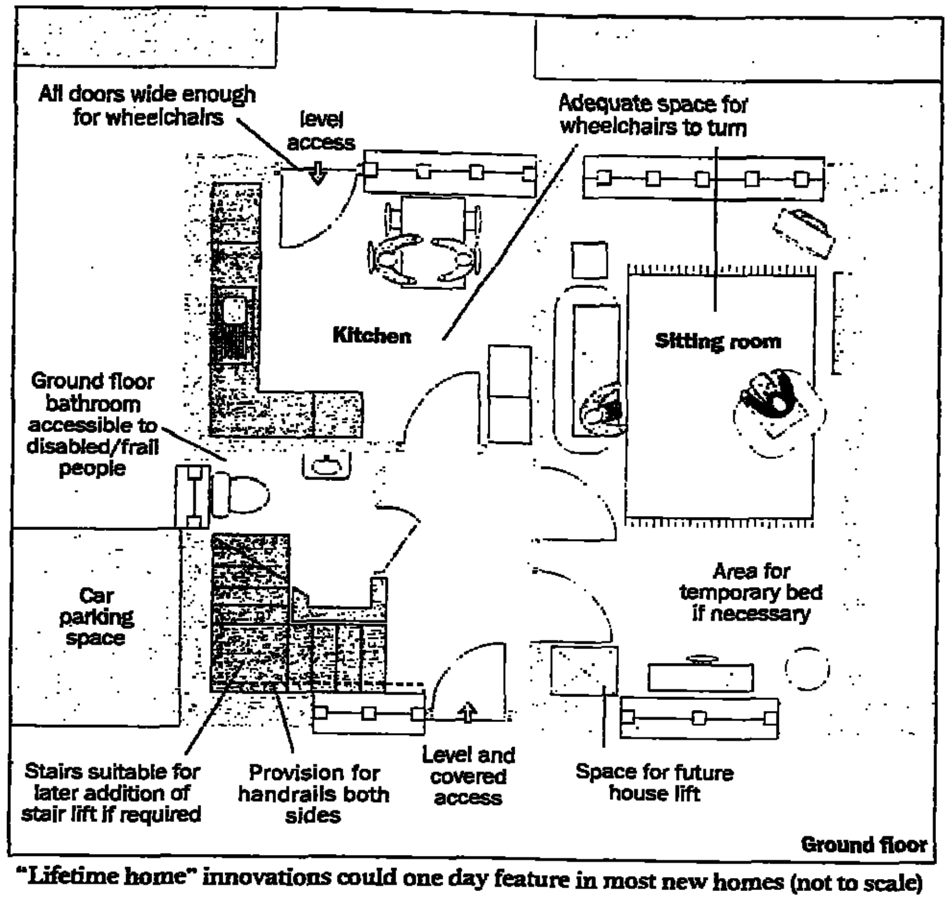
The house develops some of the ideas that define a "lifetime home". Such homes are not specifically developed for the disabled in the way that the Barnsley house was. Rather, they are designed to accommodate people's changing needs throughout life.

The Joseph Rowntree Trust, the York-based housing charity and think-tank, has developed 500 such homes, all with level thresholds, downstairs lavatories that can easily be changed into shower-rooms, and stairs wide enough to fit a stair-lift. Light switches and windows are low enough for children to reach, and the kitchen units are height-adjustable. Everything is easily adaptable if someone in the family becomes disabled.

The Barnsley house will open after Christmas for visits from disabled and elderly people keen to try out the technology. According to Nick Wilson, the headmaster of Rockley school, they will be able to try out rival stair-lift systems, for example, to see which one suits them best.

"The house is unique in bringing together so much electronic technology for people with disabilities," says Dr Hawley. "It shows that anybody with a physical disability, no matter how severe, can function here."

Christopher Reynolds has yet to visit the house. Thanks to some of the technology on show there, he is able to live independently in Lincoln — in a house with a level threshold.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level access
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Stairs suitable for later addition of stair lift if required
Provision for handrails both sides
Level and covered access
Space for future house lift
Ground floor

"Lifetime home" innovations could one day feature in most new homes (not to scale)

Let the seller beware

Calls to shift burden of surveys to home owners

ESTATE agents have joined forces with surveyors and auctioneers to press for the scrapping of the principle of *caveat emptor*, or "let the buyer beware", when purchasing property, *Rachel Kelly writes.*

Instead, the onus should be on sellers to provide evidence that their property is a sound buy, they say.

This radical step, overthrowing decades of established practice, is the first joint recommendation to the housing minister, Hilary Armstrong, from the National Association of Estate Agents, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

At a meeting with the minister, who is reviewing the entire housebuying process, the three professional bodies this week argued that sellers should provide a survey, the deeds of the house, and a local authority search when they put their houses on the market.

Michael Day of the RICS said: "When someone buys a new home, they normally receive all the necessary information from a developer. This ensures that transactions normally take less than a month."

Together the professional bodies represent about 40,000 members and are among those who have been invited to advise the minister. Government officials are monitoring individual cases.

Mr Day said the change of emphasis from buyer to seller would halve the average 13 weeks it takes to buy a house, and limit the scourge of gazumping.

"Sellers would have to provide a mandatory 'log book' with a full structural survey, damp-proofing documents, evidence of building regulations approval on extensions, and evidence of servicing to central heating, for example," said Mr Day. "There is nothing to stop people doing this at the moment, but most don't."

He admitted that this would add to the expense of selling, and ensure work for surveyors. The average price of a full survey on a three-bedroom terraced house is £400. "But most sellers are also buyers, so they would save the money when they buy," he said.

The results of the investigation are expected next summer.

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THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10 1997

NEWS

Spending on NHS will be capped

■ NHS spending will be strictly capped for the first time under sweeping White Paper proposals announced yesterday. They give GPs overall control of the £35 billion health budget with responsibility for spending on hospital and primary care.

A ten-year programme aims at abolishing the NHS internal market, phasing out GP fundholding, setting up a 24-hour help line, and guaranteeing a specialist appointment for anyone with suspected cancer within two weeks .... **Page 1**

Race to find Branson's balloon

■ Military aircraft may have to shoot down Richard Branson's runaway 223ft balloon — a threat to aircraft — if the Virgin crew could not salvage it before dawn. Colder air had caused it to fall from the 60,000ft it achieved as it crossed the Atlas Mountains .... **Pages 1, 3**

Chancellor's adviser

Lord Irvine of Lairg became the first Lord Chancellor to have a special adviser when he appointed Garry Hart, a close friend of the Prime Minister, to the post .... **Pages 1, 2**

Blair in euro row

Tony Blair was heading for his first serious confrontation in Europe after insisting that Britain has a seat on a powerful new committee that will run the single currency .... **Page 2**

Robinson accused

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, was accused by Tory MPs of neglecting ministerial duties because of an obsession with clearing his name .... **Page 2**

Runaway found

The bearded figure in Leicester Square looked like yet another down-and-out to Catherine Davies, whose son had been missing for 31 days. But there was something about the scarf .... **Page 5**

Risk of race riots

Police risk race riots because mistakes made with the black community are being repeated with a new generation of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, a Home Office report said .... **Page 6**

Butchers' petition

Butchers asked customers to sign a petition urging the Government to abandon its proposed beef-on-the-bone ban .... **Page 6**

Toyota's choice

France's long and secretive courtship of Toyota Motor Corp reached the altar with the official announcement that the Japanese carmaker will site its new assembly plant there .... **Page 7**

Detective apologises

A retired detective apologised to the families of three murdered boys for wrongly suggesting that they had died during solvent abuse .... **Page 8**

Kyoto rescue

An international rescue fund to help to save small island nations from rising sea levels was expected to be approved at the Kyoto summit .... **Page 9**

Swiss merger anger

The Swiss are bracing themselves for a winter of discontent after the merger of the country's two largest banks brought threats of a tough response from trade unionists .... **Page 12**

Zimbabwe strike

Violence erupted in Harare between riot police and thousands of demonstrators as a strike paralysed Zimbabwe's government and private sectors .... **Page 13**

Russian scandal

Russia's ruling elite was plunged into another potentially damaging corruption scandal after details emerged about secret bank accounts held by dozens of senior government figures .... **Page 14**

Canal may be Britannia's final berth

■ The Royal Yacht *Britannia* may sail into a less dignified retirement than the Queen would wish, with a permanent berth on either the Manchester Ship Canal or at Leith Docks near Edinburgh. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, is expected to announce that eight serious bids for the 44-year-old vessel have been reduced to those two .... **Page 1**

JOHN STILLWELL

Dame Cleo Laine, 70, the jazz singer, outside Buckingham Palace yesterday after receiving her DBE insignia from the Queen

BUSINESS

Aerospace pact: The formation of a single European aerospace company came a step closer as the Governments of Britain, France and Germany joined forces to encourage national aircraft manufacturers to merge........ **Page 25, 27**

House prices: The Nationwide Building Society predicts UK house prices will rise by 7 per cent in 1998, a marked slowdown on this year's 12 per cent increase........... **Page 25**

Pru succumbs: Prudential Corporation has bowed to Treasury pressure and agreed to join the watchdog Personal Investment Authority .... **Pages 25, 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 10.3 to 5,177.1. The pound rose to 104.1, falling to $1.6456 and rising to DM2.9529 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Manchester United are aiming for a sixth successive win in the European Champions League when they take on Juventus in the Stadio delle Alpi .... **Page 44**

Rugby union: Cambridge beat Oxford 29-17 in the Varsity match at Twickenham, their fourth successive victory. Paul Surridge, the Cambridge full back, scored 14 points .... **Page 48**

Racing: The Maktoum brothers, the world's most powerful racing family, signalled their intention to pull out of British racing unless there was a dramatic change in its finances........................ **Page 48**

Cricket: MCC's general committee decides today whether to recommend that women should be eligible to join the club .... **Page 48**

ARTS

D-day: The Arts Council faces its most difficult decision: whether to approve in whole, or in part, a £113 million grant to London's South Bank Centre .... **Page 36**

True stories: Stage and screen love to portray journalists as champions of good over evil, more cunning than a fox and wittier than Woody Allen. The truth is rather different .... **Page 37**

Criminal tales: The British have always been suckers for a gentleman criminal and Howard Marks is one of the finest. Now he is regaling us in a one-man show........................ **Page 37**

Dance debut: English National Ballet unveils a new *Nutcracker* to celebrate its move to the Coliseum for Christmas .... **Page 38**

FEATURES

Home birth: Sarah Johnson found unexpected benefits to giving birth at home. It was relaxing, happy — and no stranger could have taken her baby .... **Page 16**

Nigella Lawson: Why I side with the vulgar mob over Myra Hindley; fat can be good for you; Mammon's message .... **Page 17**

Wasted lives: Bose Mbah's writer husband is in a Nigerian jail, sentenced to 15 years. Now she, too, is a security risk........................ **Page 17**

[illegible]

Smart houses: Rachel Kelly examines a cradle-to-grave design philosophy........................ **Page 23**

[illegible]

Digital disaster: A special report on the computer danger facing industry and Government as the millennium nears .... **Pages 30-33**

[illegible]

The Government's action in closing 56 of 58 suspended finance companies was decisive, painful and necessary — *The Bangkok Post*

This is a step backward in order to go forward. There will be tough times ahead but Thai people have gone through thick and thin before — *Thai Rath*

What happened was just the beginning of the painful process the Government must undertake. The futures of many people hang in the balance — *The Nation*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS

A Bond for the Nineties? Pierce Brosnan talks about *Tomorrow Never Dies*

■ BOOKS

Jeanette Winterson on erotic art; Sheila Rowbotham on two pioneers of feminism

RADIO & TV

Preview: A great jockey, but why is Lester Piggott so disliked? *Secret Lives* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond sings the praises of Mike Reid.................. **Pages 46, 47**

[illegible]

Building on Bevan

The Government believes its reforms forestall the need for a more radical examination of NHS funding ... But this White Paper will not be the final word .... **Page 19**

Home alone

When so much needs to be done in welfare reform, it is a shame the Government has not started with proposals easier to justify than those for lone mothers....... **Page 19**

The jet stream bubble

As with sailing, venturing off the land into an alien element presents natural risks. Balloons seem peculiarly vulnerable .... **Page 19**

[illegible]

PETER RIDDELL

There is a close parallel between government approaches to health and to schools — an emphasis on local professionals .... **Page 11**

SIMON JENKINS

Geoffrey Robinson is a Blair courtier with lots of money, a good job, a well-provided family and houses in Tuscany and France. In years to come, he may need all the help I can give him........................ **Page 18**

RICHARD BURGE

There is no reason why museums, galleries and theatres should not be able to dispense completely with the government grant........ **Page 18**

ALAN COREN

The iffiest of all calling cards are the invitations to alternative therapies. These do not merely pong, they quack........................ **Page 18**

SIMON BARNES

It really is the most perfect of all sport's pleasures. It is the moment when the script goes wrong . . . and sport goes spiralling off into the wild new wander............ **Page 46**

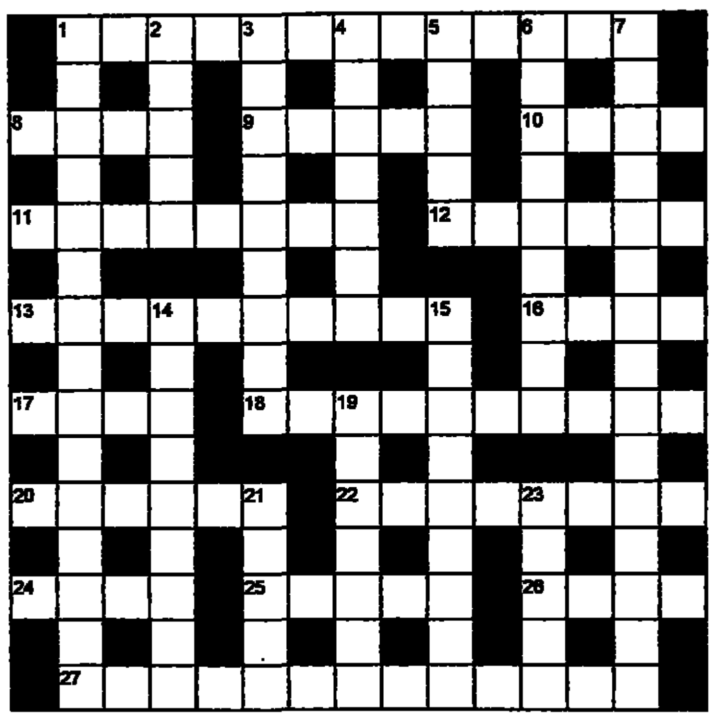
[illegible]

Brigadier E.C.W. Myers, hero of wartime resistance in Greece; **Allen Wright**, theatre critic; **Barbara**, French singer .... **Page 21**

[illegible]

Labour tax plans; minimum wage; Gibraltar; Maxwell and Robinson; climate change.................. **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,659



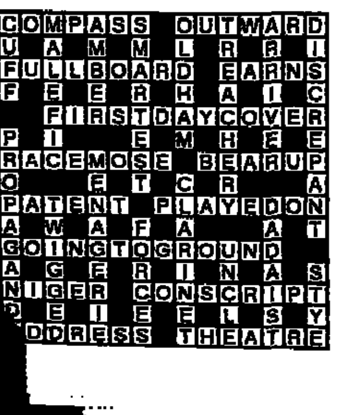
ACROSS

1 Splendid novel read by everyone? (5,3,5).
8 Bitter person finally changes sides (4).
9 Crib first son's born in (5).
10 Mum is stuck on Dad — that's infatuation (4).
11 One preserving me in marble bust (8).
12 Prior to course at Oxford, pass the port (6).
13 Go by rail to resort? It might be necessary (10).
16 Major incident when tail falls off plane (4).
17 I'd finally got thrown off a wild horse (4).
18 Top celebrities have out of this world, heavenly bodies (10).
20 A fine metal case for Oriental antique (3-3).
22 Forward thinking (8).
24 Tax upon new drivers (4).
25 All the players scored (5).
26 Primate not finished with good port (4).
27 Declaration made by man in spring to intended in speech (13).

DOWN

1 So-called wolf pack? (10,5).
2 Courts can be a lot of trouble (5).
3 Cause bridge opponents mostly to arrive at no bid (9).
4 Stop me getting up and save energy (7).
5 Drank port, say, and had some beef, we hear (5).
6 Show that's on now (9).
7 A magic show? The opposite, perhaps (12,3).
14 Big limo or convertible in complicated pile-up (9).
15 Sort of pudding bowls to employ (9).
19 One path laid out specially for carriage (7).
21 The same song, but with a different ending (5).
23 Sweet talking native of North America (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,658



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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will start wet but rain should quickly move away northeast. That will leave much of the day mild and blustery with brief sunny spells and occasional showers. Northern Ireland will also start dull with spells of rain, but should soon become drier.

Southern Scotland will be dull and damp this morning but drier and brighter this afternoon. Northern Scotland will have sunny spells and a few showers. Wet everywhere tonight.

☐ **London, SE England, Cent S England, Midlands, Cent N England:** early rain followed by drier and brighter weather. Fresh SW wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England:** rain gradually clearing, then brighter in afternoon. Fresh to strong SW wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland:** rain quickly clearing to leave occasional showers. Fresh SW wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Lake District, NE England:** cloudy and wet. Drier by evening. Gusty SW wind easing later. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll:** dull and wet with mist on hills. Winds fresh SW backing NW and easing later. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** some brighter spells but chilly and perhaps one or two afternoon showers. Winds light to moderate and cyclonic. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **NW Scotland:** cloudy with a few showers, becoming more isolated later. Moderate WNW wind, backing SW later. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** mainly dry after early rain in N. More rain from W later. Wind SW, fresh, locally gale in S. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Outlook:** unsettled with more rain, but a ridge of high pressure will bring drier, colder weather with night frosts on Friday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.1	0.02	8	46	sh	Lerwick	0.1	0.27	9	48	sh
Anglesey	-	0.05	12	54	r	Leuchars	0.2	0.01	10	50	sh
Aspatria	0.6	0.10	11	52	sh	Littlehmptn	0.7	0.04	12	54	b
Aviemore	0.3	0.04	8	46	sh	London	0.2	0.02	13	55	c
Belfast	1.9	0.08	10	50	r	Lowestoft	1.1	-	11	52	c
Birmingham	0.3	0.02	12	54	sh	Manchester	-	0.06	12	54	sh
Bognor R	0.3	0.08	13	55	sh	Margate	0.9	0.03	12	54	sh
Bournem'th	-	0.06	13	55	sh	Minehead	0.2	0.27	13	55	sh
Bristol	0.6	0.25	13	55	r	Morecambe	0.4	0.51	11	52	t
Buxton	-	0.18	9	48	sh	Newcastle	3.6	0.02	11	52	b
Cardiff	0.9	0.41	12	54	sh	Newquay	-	0.25	13	55	r
Clacton	0.6	0.02	10	50	du	Norwich	1.9	-	11	52	c
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	0.1	0.07	12	54	r
Colwyn Bay	X	0.09	13	55	c	Penzance	X	0.26	13	55	sh
Cromer	2.6	0.01	11	52	b	Prestatyn	X	0.02	10	50	r
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	0.2	0.04	13	55	sh
East Coast						Saunton Snd	-	0.19	12	54	sh
Eastbourne	0.3	0.02	13	55	d	Scarboro'	2.6	0.01	9	48	s
Edinburgh	2.0	0.13	11	52	r	Shrewsbury	0.2	0.01	12	54	c
Eskdalemuir	-	0.65	9	48	sh	Skegness	2.0	-	10	50	c
Exmouth	0.1	0.07	13	55	r	Southend	1.6	-	12	54	c
Falmouth	-	0.28	12	54	r	Southport	0.3	0.01	12	54	c
Folkestone	0.6	0.02	12	54	r	Southsea	0.5	0.07	13	55	r
Glasgow	-	0.32	10	50	r	Stornoway	0.2	0.27	9	48	r
Guernsey	0.2	0.02	14	57	sh	Swanage	-	0.07	13	55	sh
Hastings	1.3	0.01	12	54	sh	Teignmouth	0.2	0.11	13	55	r
Hayling I.	-	0.07	12	54	sh	Tenby	1.2	0.24	13	55	r
Herne Bay	0.7	0.02	12	54	du	Tiree	-	0.20	10	50	sh
Hove	0.2	0.06	11	52	c	Torquay	-	0.20	13	55	r
Hunstanton	X	-	11	52	c	Tynemouth	-	-	10	50	b
Isle-of-wight	-	0.15	13	55	r	West-s-mare	-	0.26	13	55	r
Jersey	0.1	0.03	13	55	sh	Weymouth	-	0.09	13	55	r
Kinloss	0.3	0.04	9	48	b						
Leeds	1.5	0.06	11	52	sh						

ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	s	Corfu	14	57	s	Majorca	16	61	f	Rome	11	52	s
Akrotiri	17	63	c	C'phagn	4	39	s	Malaga	16	61	s	S Fr'isco	11	52	s
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Dublin	10	50	f	Malta	15	59	s	S Paulo	X		
Algiers	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	12	54	s	Melb'rne	17	63	c	Salzburg	5	41	c
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Faro	18	64	f	Mexico C	X			Santiago	30	86	s
Athens	11	52	c	Florence	9	48	s	Miami	20	68	f	Seoul	2	36	f
B Aires	30	86	s	Frankfurt	2	36	c	Milan	5	41	s	Sing'por	25	77	r
Bahrain	21	70	s	Funchal	22	72	f	Montreal	-3	27	X	St'kholm	3	37	fg
Bangkok	34	93	s	Geneva	3	37	f	Moscow	-4	25	sn	Strasb'rg	3	37	f
Barbados	30	86	s	Gibraltar	16	61	c	Munich	7	45	s	Sydney	22	72	c
Barcelona	11	52	f	Helsinki	2	36	d	N Delhi	22	72	f	Tangier	17	63	f
Beirut	24	75	f	Hong K	17	63	c	N York	7	45	s	Tel Aviv	20	68	ds
Belgrade	-1	30	fg	Innsbrck	4	39	f	Nairobi	24	75	f	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	5	41	f	Istanbul	6	43	r	Naples	12	54	s	Tokyo	13	55	c
Bermuda	19	66	f	Jeddah	32	90	s	Nice	11	52	f	Toronto	2	36	c
Biarritz	16	61	f	Jo'burg	25	77	c	Oslo	5	41	c	Tunis	15	59	s
Borde'x	14	57	s	L Angels	14	57	s	Paris	9	48	c	Valencia	17	63	s
Brussels	7	45	c	L Palmas	22	72	s	Peking	1	34	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	s
Budapest	-1	30	f	Le Touqt	12	54	f	Perth	28	82	s	Venice	8	46	s
Cairo	21	70	s	Lisbon	15	59	r	Prague	3	37	r	Vienna	3	37	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Locarno	4	39	c	Reykjavik	0	32	c	Warsaw	2	36	c
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	1	34	c	Rhodes	15	59	f	Wash'ton	8	46	s
Chicago	-2	28	sn	Luxor	25	77	s	Rio de J	29	84	s	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Cologne	4	39	f	Madrid	5	41	c	Riyadh	22	72	s	Zurich	3	37	c

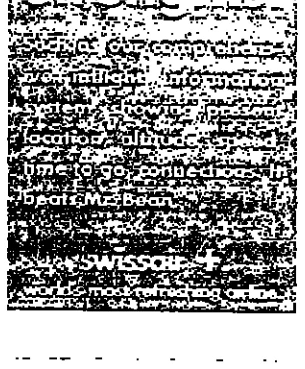
Temperatures at midday local time on Monday X = not available

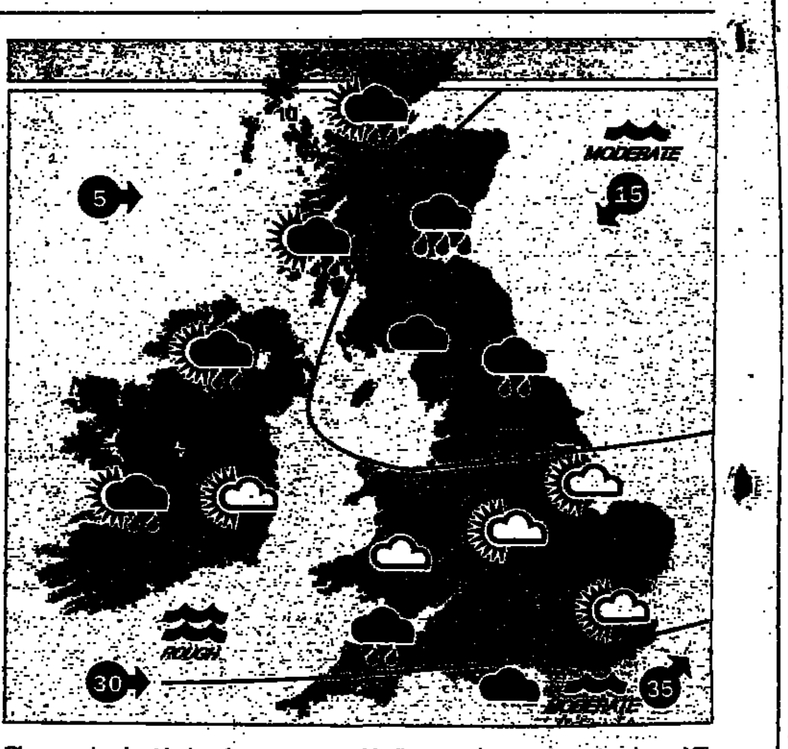
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Tulloch Bridge, Highland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0.65in; highest sunshine: Newcastle 3.6hr.

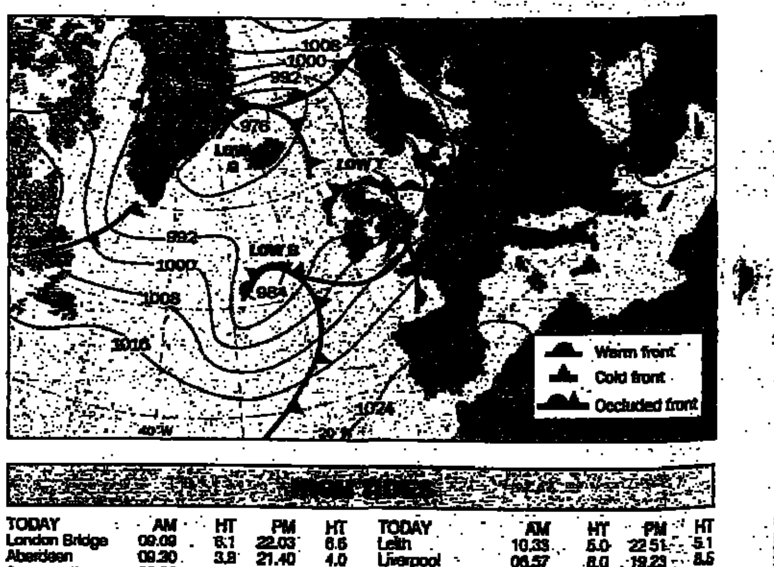
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996





Changes to chart below from noon: low Y will move NE into Scandinavia and fill slowly; low B will move quickly E; low G will drift slowly N and fill



[illegible]

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	09.09	6.1	22.03	6.6	Leith	10.33	5.0	22.51	5.1
Aberdeen	09.30	3.9	21.40	4.0	Liverpool	06.57	8.0	19.23	8.5
Avonmouth	02.23	10.8	15.05	11.4	Lowestoft	04.34	2.3	17.57	2.3
Belfast	06.44	3.1	19.00	3.3	Margate	07.23	4.3	20.18	4.4
Cardiff	02.09	10.1	14.51	10.6	Milford Haven	01.42	5.6	14.16	6.0
Devonport	00.54	4.8	13.27	4.9	Newquay	00.43	5.7	13.16	6.1
Dover	06.43	5.8	19.24	5.9	Oban	01.48	3.1	14.25	3.6
Dublin (N Wall)	07.43	3.7	19.52	3.9	Penzance	00.09	4.8	12.41	4.9
Falmouth	00.25	4.4	12.58	4.7	Portland	02.13	1.6	14.33	1.7
Greenock	08.05	3.2	20.42	3.4	Portsmouth	07.26	4.3	19.48	4.2
Harwich	06.57	3.6	19.51	3.7	Shoreham	06.49	5.5	19.27	5.5
Holyhead	06.18	4.9	18.36	5.2	Southampton	06.29	4.2	18.56	4.2
Hull (Albert D)	01.26	7.5	14.33	7.8	Swansea	01.48	7.8	14.21	8.3
Ilfracombe	01.25	7.5	14.03	8.0	Tees	11.49	4.7	-	-
King's Lynn	01.33	5.6	14.40	5.8	Walton-on-N	07.00	3.7	19.54	3.9

Heights in metres.

[illegible]

Sun rises: 7.56 am
Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets: 3.00 am
Moon rises: 2.05 pm

London 3.52 pm to 7.56 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.06 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.34 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.15 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.11 am

Full moon December 14

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هكذا من الإصلاء

THE TIMES 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10 1997

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BUSINESS
High-flyers cleared for take-off
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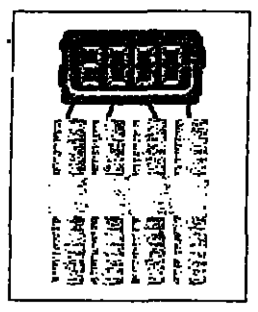

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The millennium time bomb in our computer systems
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SPORT
Cole aiming to strike rich seam in Italy
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TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46-47

Governments sanction aerospace and defence integration

Shake-up to spur BAe and GEC

Simpson: welcomed move

By Adam Jones

BRITISH AEROSPACE and GEC are poised to be at the centre of a giant restructuring of the European defence and aerospace industries sanctioned yesterday by the British, French and German Governments.

The European aerospace and defence electronics industry was told to come up with "a clear plan and detailed timetable" for integration by March 31, 1998.

The message came in a statement issued by Tony Blair; Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister; Jacques Chirac, the French President; and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

The politicians also called for swift progress towards restructuring Airbus, the commercial aircraft consortium owned by British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France, Dasa of Germany and Casa of Spain, as a single company.

At NatWest Markets, analysts believe that consolidation could add between £4 and £5 to the value of BAe shares, just from the savings on the Eurofighter project. BAe shares closed up 73p at £17.68.

Both Sir Richard Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, and Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, managing director of GEC, welcomed the announcement. However a GEC spokesman pointed out that European companies may also seek US alliances. GEC is looking for buying opportunities in the US.

In the UK, the statement was released jointly by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary. Mr Robertson repeated his belief that the European industry must "rationalise or die". He said: "National solutions are not always going to be available."

Mrs Beckett would not say whether it meant she would block a possible merger between BAe and GEC, nor would she say what sanctions might be used against companies who did not come up with proposals by the March deadline.

In France, Alain Richard, the Defence Minister, said one of the possibilities for the restructuring was a single, quoted Airbus company. Aérospatiale, which owns 37.9 per cent of Airbus, is state-owned and had been seen by some as a barrier to comprehensive restructuring. In Bonn, Sighart Nehring, an official in Helmut Kohl's office, said: "It would be desirable to have one company."

European aerospace companies, led by BAe, are already exploring restructuring options. BAe and Lagardère's Matra are allied in missiles, while the French have also been forming a defence electronics grouping around Thomson-CSF.

NatWest analysts thought it likely that defence electronics companies would continue to consolidate separately around the Thomson-CSF grouping, with the possibility of future inclusion in a wider company.

The ownership of any merged aerospace company would be a likely source of friction between the European participants. The likes of British Aerospace and Dasa are more efficient than the state-owned Aérospatiale and could demand recognition of this in the allocation.

AIRBUS Industrie, likely to be the centre of the aerospace and defence electronics restructuring in Europe, is already aiming to reinvent itself by 1999. The operation is to become a limited company before a possible float. Lehman Brothers, the US investment bank, has valued it at between £9 billion and £12 billion. The consortium, which says it now has nearly 50 per cent of new orders for airliners, started with just French and German backing in 1970. It is now 37.9 per cent owned by Aerospatiale of France, 37.9 per cent by Dasa of Germany, 20 per cent by British Aerospace and 4.2 per cent by Casa of Spain. As it has been growing from a much smaller base, Airbus has managed to avoid the production problems that have dogged Boeing during the current boom in orders. This week Airbus said it is definitely going ahead with two new versions of its A340, bringing up to £2.4 billion of orders to Rolls-Royce, whose engines are powering the planes.

Commentary, page 27
Cleared for take-off, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5177.1	(-10 3)
Yield	3.15%	
FTSE All share	2424.81	(-3.53)
Nikkei	16686.51	(+554.94)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8098.65	(-12 19)*
S&P Composite	981.10	(-1.27)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5[illegible]%)
Long Bond	99 21/32*	(99[illegible])
Yield	6.13%*	(6.14%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7⅝%	(7[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	120⅜	(119[illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6533*	(1.6485)
London:		
$	1.6457	(1.6479)
DM	2.9533	(2.9471)
FFr	9.8858	(9.8629)
SFr	2.4065	(2.3940)
Yen	213.72	(215.15)
£ Index	104.1	(104.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7922*	(1.7890)
FFr	5.9972*	(5.9885)
SFr	1.4572*	(1.4575)
Yen	129.68*	(130.40)
$ Index	108.7	(108.7)

Tokyo close Yen 130.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$18.15	($18.30)

GOLD

London close	$283.65	($287.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Berkeley hit

Strong results from Berkeley Group, the residential developer, were not enough to prevent a sharp fall in the price of its shares yesterday.
Page 26, Tempus 28

Scotia departure

David Horrobin has made a surprise decision to give up his job as chief executive of Scotia Holdings, the unconventional drug-development company that he founded nearly 20 years ago.
Page 27

Nationwide forecasts cut in house price growth

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE boom in house prices is poised to slow sharply next year as interest rate rises start to bite and more properties come on to the market, the Nationwide Building Society said yesterday.

The Nationwide predicted that UK house prices will rise by an average of 7 per cent next year compared with 12 per cent growth in 1997.

The new forecast came as retail prices data showed the annual rate of inflation remained static in November — further easing the pressure on the Bank of England to raise interest rates.

The Nationwide said that the expected economic slowdown is likely to ease price pressures next year especially in London and the South East where rises have been strongest.

Central London, in particular, has seen prices rise by up to 40 per cent as local "bottlenecks" have developed because of a shortage of saleable property. But the Nationwide predicts that transactions will grow by around 5 per cent to just over 1.5 million next year as more property becomes available.

Paul Sanderson, head of Nationwide research, said house price rises could now be past their peak but the "modest recovery" should have further to go especially in areas that have so far not benefited from localised booms.

Economists yesterday gave a broad welcome to the latest inflation figures although underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, remains stubbornly above the Government's target measure of 2.5 per cent.

The annual rate of underlying inflation was unchanged at 2.8 per cent in November, while the headline rate of inflation also stayed static at 3.7 per cent.

Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said: "With the strong pound still exerting downward pressure on costs and demand showing signs of softening, the fundamental inflation picture looks favourable."

But Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, said the high headline inflation could increase wage pressures and send the retail prices index upwards in the new year.

Gold price slumps to 18-year low

By Alasdair Murray

GOLD prices slumped to an 18-year low as fears of a mass sale of bullion by central banks continued to cloud the market.

Gold bullion fixed at $283.25 (£169) an ounce in afternoon trading yesterday, its lowest price since August 1979. Gold prices have now fallen nearly $90 an ounce this year.

But analysts predicted that prices are set to plummet further with few signs that producers are prepared to make dramatic cuts in production to compensate for the central bank gold flooding onto the market.

The Argentine central bank precipitated the latest round of price falls after revealing last week that it had disposed of its entire gold reserves. The threat of a gradual sale of gold reserves by leading central banks, including Switzerland, has been the main cause of the price falls.

Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi investor, who is being pressed to complete a £250 million deal with Lonrho after talks lasting almost a year

Lonrho steps up pressure for hotel deal

By Jason Nissé and Dominic Walsh

LONRHO is putting pressure on Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi investor, to complete the £250 million purchase of Princess hotels.

The British conglomerate has said it will put the chain of luxury hotels back on the market. Starwood Lodging, the US group that recently bought ITT, owner of Sheraton Hotels, is thought to have expressed an interest.

The Prince has been in talks with Lonrho for most of this year, has completed his due diligence and was given signed documentation by Lonrho last week. Lonrho hopes a deal can be concluded in the next few days but told the Prince that it would circulate sale memorandums if there is no progress.

Lonrho is also moving towards a £450 million deal to buy JCI, the South African mining group. Mzi Khumalo, chairman of JCI, confirmed the talks yesterday.

Radical blow, page 29

Matthew Clark shares tumble after warning

By Dominic Walsh

MATTHEW CLARK lost more than 20 per cent of its market value yesterday as the troubled cidermaker gave warning that disappointing pre-Christmas trading meant that it was unlikely to meet full-year profit forecasts.

Peter Aikens, chief executive, said: "We would normally expect to see 35-40 per cent of our gross profit going out in October and November. But this year will be something like 10 per cent down on that, and we haven't really seen any sparks of life yet in December." The shares dived 46½p to 183½p.

The warning came as the group, still recovering from the effect of alcopops on cider sales, reported an 18 per cent drop in profit before tax to £17.7 million in the half year to October 31, from turnover 7 per cent lower at £272.9 million. Earnings per share were down 15 per cent to 14.2p and the interim dividend, due on April 7, is almost halved at 5p (9p).

Mr Aikens said the cider market had yet to return to growth, though he expressed confidence that the increased investment being pumped into advertising would begin to have an impact in the second half. Volumes declined by 14 per cent, with packaged sales suffering from the rise in duty imposed on high-strength ciders such as Diamond White in October 1996.

The group's non-cider division, which includes QC sherry and Stone's Ginger Wine, saw a 5 per cent dip in profits to £9.8 million after a rise in advertising spend.

There was consolation from its drinks wholesaling division, which improved operating profits 29 per cent to £4 million after rationalisation.

Tempus, page 28

Prudential persuaded to join PIA

Davis: "anomalous position"

By Caroline Merrell

THE Prudential has bowed to Treasury pressure and agreed to join the Personal Investment Authority (PIA).

The Prudential, which three years ago chose to be regulated by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), has come under increasing attack in the past few months over its regulatory position. Regulation by the SIB rather than the PIA spared it from being fined for regulatory infringements. Both regulators are in the process of being subsumed into the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

The company has been struggling to compensate thousands of customers who were mis-sold personal pensions. It has missed two deadlines for offering compensation to the most high-priority cases. Other PIA-authorised companies, which have far fewer mis-selling cases, such as Albany Life and Friends Provident, have been fined six-figure sums by the PIA.

The Prudential has been criticised by Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, over its progress in paying compensation. Prudential yesterday said it had not been forced to join the PIA by the Treasury.

Sir Peter Davis, Prudential chief executive, said: "We are in the anomalous position of being the only life insurance company in the UK not regulated by the PIA. I have discussed regulatory arrangements with Howard Davies, chairman of the FSA. He and I agree it would be right to change these arrangements."

Mick Newmarch, Prudential's controversial former chief executive, had insisted on regulation by the SIB, because he believed self-regulation did not work.

The PIA yesterday also announced the appointment of Roger Bright as chief executive to replace Colette Bowe who leaves on January 1. Mr Bright was previously head of the PIA's supervision and authorisation division.

Commentary, page 27

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Small rise for Energis on debut

Shares in Energis, the telecommunications company, ended the first day of trading at 292p yesterday, against the offer price of 290p.

The business has been demerged from National Grid, which will net proceeds of £203 million from the flotation while retaining a 74.3 per cent interest.

More than 9.4 million shares were traded and the share price initially rose to 297½p before falling back.

BSS advance

BSS Group, the distributor of heating, plumbing and pipeline products, lifted pre-tax profits to £7 million (£6.1 million) in the half year to September 30. Turnover fell to £159.2 million (£164.7 million). The interim dividend rises to 7p a share (6.5p), payable from earnings of 17.7p a share (14.7p).

Eurocopy fall

Eurocopy has cut the total dividend to 2.43p (2.64p) a share, with a final 1.5p, after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits to £4.47 million (£4.78 million) in the year to September 30. Earnings fell to 6.06p (6.47p) a share. The shares held at 29p.

Oil change

Burmah Castrol, the lubricants group whose brands include Castrol GTX, said it was reorganising its Castrol businesses into a global operation with the loss of 20 senior managers. The move will mostly affect jobs in North America.

ALAN WELLER

Tony Pidgley unveiled strong results at Berkeley, where Far East purchasers account for a quarter of forward sales

Berkeley shares shaken despite profits surge

By Paul Durman

STRONG results from Berkeley Group, the highly regarded residential developer, were not enough to prevent a sharp fall in its share price yesterday.

The shares fell 21p to 641½p on fears that sales of the company's upmarket homes may be hit by the economic problems in the Far East. A quarter of Berkeley's forward sales, worth more than £130 million, are agreed with purchasers from the Far East. Most of these are for London homes where higher prices are believed to produce substantially better profits for the company.

Analysts are forecasting Berkeley will make £95 million or more this year, and up to £119 million in the next financial year, but believe its rapid growth may then slow.

Tony Pidgley, Berkeley's chief executive, reported a 46 per cent increase in first-half profits to £43.9 million. With sales in the six months to October 31 rising 35 per cent to £274 million, this represented an improved profit margin of 16 per cent.

Some analysts fear rising land prices will put margins under pressure. But Berkeley believes the more complicated developments it takes on — often involving substantial planning work — protect it from the worst effects of land price inflation.

A higher number of flat sales increased unit sales in the half from 946 to 1,563, but reduced average selling prices from £210,000 to £177,000.

Berkeley said its reservations last month were another record, despite signs of slackening demand in the housing market. Graham Roper, chairman, said Berkeley's strong forward sales "gives us every confidence for the current year and beyond".

Since recently raising £125 million in a deeply discounted rights issue, Berkeley has agreed £50 million of land purchases, including the acquisition of a 32-acre site on the north bank of the River Thames between Wandsworth Bridge and Chelsea Harbour.

The company will pay an interim dividend of 2.65p a share on February 9. Although this is a 6 per cent improvement on last year's 2.5p payment, Berkeley said it represents a 10.9 per cent rise after adjusting for the rights issue.

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New round in RJB and PowerGen coal talks

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

RJB MINING yesterday held further talks with PowerGen, the UK's second biggest generator, in the protracted negotiations over new coal contracts.

RJB declined to comment on the threat made this week by The Energy Group that it could scrap deals to buy RJB coal unless it got clarification from the Government over the recent moratorium on gas-fired power stations.

The Energy Group said it had nothing yet to add on comments by John Devaney, chief executive, that he may not sign the contracts with RJB for 20 million tonnes of coal over five years.

The lengthy talks between PowerGen and RJB continue amid speculation that the generator is holding out for Government agreement that it will be able to buy a regional electricity company.

The Government has asked the three main coal-burning generators to buy extra coal and boost the market for the UK industry, which could face up to eight pit closures and 5,000 job losses. It is believed to have indicated a role for the generators in energy policy.

Industry insiders believe that PowerGen, which has made very hawkish comments about its requirements for RJB coal, has opt-out clauses on some of its import arrangements which could be exercised to buy UK coal.

PowerGen wants RJB to cut its price by 15 per cent. Last week RJB told union leaders it wanted to push through a cost-cutting programme.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hiscox in £44m bid for Lloyd's group

HISCOX, which manages Lloyd's syndicates, is making a recommended £44 million offer for Hiscox Select, one of the new breed of Lloyd's limited liability investment vehicles. The offer values each Select share at 146.6p and represents a premium of nearly 30 per cent on Monday's closing price of 113p a Select share. The shares rose 29p to 142p yesterday. Shares in Hiscox were unchanged at 190p.

Shareholders will be offered 118 new Hiscox shares and £69 in cash for every 200 Select shares. Holders of Select loan stock will be offered a straight swap into Hiscox notes, but have the option of converting into Select shares, potentially increasing the value of the deal to a maximum of £55.5 million. Hiscox has received acceptances in respect of 25.3 per cent of the shares from parties including the Benfield & Rea Investment Trust, which owns 17 per cent of Select.

BT in Irish venture

BT is to form a joint venture with the Electricity Supply Board of Ireland to offer telecommunications services in the Republic of Ireland. The new company, which will be a 50-50 joint venture between BT and ESBI Telecoms, ESB's telecoms investment unit, will have access to the electricity group's overhead cables and ducts. The network will be linked to the BT system. About £75 million will be invested in the venture in its first five years, growing to £130 million over ten years.

Anglian Group ahead

WINDFALL profits from building society flotations contributed strongly to a 20 per cent advance in pre-tax profits, to £11.4 million, at Anglian Group, the home improvements company, in the half-year to September 27. Turnover on continuing operations rose 13 per cent to £117.4 million. David Perry, chairman, said it was not clear yet if trading in the second half would be affected by the absence of further windfall payments. Interim earnings rose 20 per cent, to 8.7p a share, and the interim dividend is up 11 per cent to 4p.

Record for Fuller Smith

FULLER SMITH & TURNER, the brewer and pub operator, yesterday reported record interim profits on the back of rising beer volumes and investment in its retail estate. Pre-tax profits rose 16.3 per cent to £6.06 million in the six months to September 27 on turnover up 12.5 per cent to £55.6 million. Earnings per share rose 16.1 per cent to 16.73p. Anthony Fuller, chairman, said a £1 million advertising campaign had helped to lift beer volumes by 12 per cent. The interim dividend, payable on January 16, rises 16 per cent to 3.60p (A and C shares) and 0.36p (B share).

Victrex lifts final payout

VICTREX, the manufacturer and distributor of polymers, blamed a fall in pre-tax profits to £11.8 million from £12.9 million in the year to September 30 on the strength of the pound and higher costs from increased manufacturing capacity. Turnover rose 14 per cent, to £43.4 million, with volumes up 40 per cent in the second half, compared with the previous year. Although earnings fell to 11.1p a share from 11.9p, the total dividend is lifted to 4.8p a share from 4.5p "in the light of the strong performance in the second half".

Halma cheers City

SHARES of Halma rose 16p to 118½p after the environmental engineering group reported a 10 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £18.7 million in the six months to September 27, ahead of City expectations. Earnings rose 11 per cent to 3.56p a share and the interim dividend is lifted 20 per cent to 1.09p. The company said the results would have been materially better but for the continued effect of the strong sterling exchange rate. Turnover rose 9 per cent to £103.3 million, with total overseas sales up 10 per cent at £62.2 million.

3i bids for Baronsmead

By Gavin Lumsden

3i, the venture capital provider, has swooped on Baronsmead, a small underperforming investment trust, with a surprise £19.7 million recommended bid.

Its cash offer of 115p for each Baronsmead share and 22p for each warrant beats a bid made by another venture capital trust, Dunedin Enterprise Investment Trust, at the end of October.

3i said that it had irrevocable acceptances from 52.5 per cent of Baronsmead shareholders, although its offer undervalues the trust's assets by 15 per cent. It needs 90 per cent to proceed.

A spokesman for 3i, which, with £5 billion of funds under management, controls a fifth of all venture capital investment in the UK, said the group had no intention of bidding for other trusts. However, the opportunity to buy a portfolio at a 15 per cent discount did not arise frequently and had been too good to ignore.

Clive Parritt, Baronsmead chairman, said the board had considered four offers, including one involving co-director Jeremy Coller, since rejecting Dunedin. 3i's bid offered shareholders the best in terms of value and liquidity, he said.

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Cable's 'double' forecast

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

THE Cable Communications Association yesterday forecast that the number of cabled homes in the UK would double by the millennium after the industry celebrated its best ever quarter.

Official figures from the Independent Television Commission showed that 3.25 million homes were connected to modern cable networks at the start of October, compared with 2.33 million a year ago, while the total number of homes with cable telephone broke the three million barrier for the first time to reach 3.1 million.

The percentage of those taking at least one cable service — compared with those reached by the cable network — rose to a high of 32.4 per cent. The percentage of those taking cable television was, however, static at 21.8 per cent.

Bob Frost, chief executive of the CCA, said yesterday: "It took cable companies 14 years to connect their first two million homes. The third million has taken just 14 months and the rate of growth is increasing every day."

In the past year cable companies have installed more than a million new telephone lines, at a record rate of 90,249 lines a month. Cable television subscriptions grew 563,186 — an average of 47,000 new connections a month.

Ofwat criticised over measure of shortages

By Christine Buckley

THE risk of water shortages needs to be better measured, the National Audit Office has warned Ian Byatt, the regulator.

In its report today, the public spending watchdog also calls for more targets to be set for water company performance.

The comments come in the wake of 1995's drought. They highlight the fact that Mr Byatt has left it to water companies to determine their own measure of a reasonable level of risk and that he has relied on comparisons between companies rather than absolute standards.

The NAO report says: "The measure used by Ofwat to monitor the number of people at risk of water shortages has been unsatisfactory."

Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, also criticises the measurement of customer satisfaction with quality of the service. Ofwat last conducted a full review five years ago.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.56	2.39
Austria Sch	21.72	20.08
Belgium Fr	63.98	59.02
Canada $	2.463	2.275
Cyprus Cyp£	0.907	0.836
Denmark Kr	11.80	10.91
Finland Mkk	9.44	8.69
France Fr	10.33	9.55
Germany Dm	3.11	2.87
Greece Dr	489	450
Hong Kong $	13.58	12.38
Iceland	130	110
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.10
Israel Shk	6.20	5.55
Italy Lira	3059	2822
Japan Yen	228.33	210.80
Malta	0.679	0.620
Netherlds Gld	3.510	3.215
New Zealand $	2.91	2.67
Norway Kr	12.54	11.60
Portugal Esc	313.30	291.00
S Africa Rd	8.73	7.77
Spain Pta	260.29	241.50
Sweden Kr	13.68	12.58
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.34
Turkey Lira	335443	315585
USA $	1.752	1.609

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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*Savings apply to UKLink customers and are compared against BT's basic rate on a 5 minute call, 8am – 6pm, weekdays. Savings correct as of 5.12.97

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of application for extension of gas suppliers' licence under section 7A of the Gas Act 1986

Volunteer Energy Limited whose registered office is situated at Hollinswood House, Stafford Park 1, Telford, Shropshire TF3 3DD, hereby gives notice that it has made an application to the Director General of Gas Supply for an extension to the licence treated as granted to it under section 7A(1)(b) of the Gas Act 1986, so that the licence were also a licence under section 7A(1)(a) of the Gas Act 1986 and any premises in Great Britain were specified in the licence.
Emma Stein,
for and on behalf of Volunteer Energy Limited.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
ALCROFT LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 4th December 1997.
M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BANKS nee CONWAY, MARY ANN BANKS otherwise MARY BANKS nee CONWAY WIDOW late of Southend on Sea, Essex died there on 19 October 1995
(Estate about £12,000)
BULLEN, MIRIAM LEAH BULLEN SPINSTER late of Westminster, London W1 died there on 6 August 1997
(Estate about £30,000)
CROWE, MARTIN CROWE late of Scunthorpe died there on or about 23 January 1995
(Estate about £15,000)
DALY otherwise DAILEY, JOHN DALY otherwise JOHN FINDEN DAILEY late of Hammersmith, London W6 died there on 20 June 1993
(Estate about £26,000)
FULLER, HENRY WILLIAM GEORGE FULLER, late of Wallington, Surrey died there on 5 October 1997
(Estate about £40,000)
HANSEN, BJARNE HANSEN late of Reading, Berkshire died there on 5 April 1997
(Estate about £90,000)
HARVEY, FREDERICK GEORGE HARVEY late of Beckenham, Kent died there on or about 26 December 1996
(Estate about £95,000)
HORRIDGE, DOUGLAS HORRIDGE late of Worthing, West Sussex died there on 17 July 1995
(Estate about £6,000)
HYDE nee MORTON formerly WORTH, JOYCE HYDE nee MORTON formerly WORTH WIDOW late of Sherburn in Elmet, Leeds died there on 23 July 1997
(Estate about £70,000)
JEREMIAH, WILFRED RICHARD JEREMIAH late of Faringdon, Oxfordshire died at Swindon, Wiltshire on 4 December 1995
(Estate about £8,000)
ORCHARD, HENRY LEONARD ORCHARD late of Lymington, Hampshire died there on 26 September 1997
(Estate about £5,000)
PEARSON nee LITTLEHALES, HILDA PEARSON, nee LITTLEHALES late of Horsehills, Leeds died at Leeds on 26 October 1997
(Estate about £25,000)
TALBOT nee COLEMAN, VIOLET ANNIE TALBOT nee COLEMAN WIDOW late of Shepherds Bush, London W12 died there on 23 August 1997
(Estate about £9,000)
TAYLOR, BEATRICE VICTORIA TAYLOR SPINSTER late of Chichester, West Sussex died there on 25 July 1997
(Estate about £5,000)
WOOD nee GOWEN, IRIS SYBIL ADELINE WOOD nee GOWEN SINGLE WOMAN late of Palmers Green, London N13 died there on 13 January 1997
(Estate about £50,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

FITZPATRICK nee MCKENZIE JANET ELIZABETH FITZPATRICK otherwise JANET FITZPATRICK nee MCKENZIE WIDOW late of Camberwell, London SE5 died there on 2 September 1996
(Estate about £5,000)

The kin of the above-named and Percy and Mabel Fitzpatrick are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitors (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

EAGLE TRUST PLC
In Members Voluntary Liquidation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that We, Ronald Robinson and Richard William Traynor were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above Company by the members on 1st December 1997.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN, that the creditors of the above named company which is being voluntarily wound up, are required on or before 31st January 1998 to send in their full Christian and Surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, R Robinson, of Begbies Traynor, Elliot House, 151 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3BP, a Joint Liquidator of the said Company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidators, are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

This notice is purely formal and all known Creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.
Dated 2nd December 1997
R Robinson, Joint Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No 005433 of 1997

IN THE MATTER OF BEACON INVESTMENT TRUST PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 3rd December 1997 CONFIRMING THE REDUCTION of the Share Premium Account of the above named BEACON INVESTMENT TRUST PLC from £11,891,618 to £7,891,618 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 5th December 1997. Dated the 10th December 1997.

STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH
Solicitors for the above-mentioned Company (Ref: 815)

T MASON & SONS LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of T Mason & Sons Limited ("Masons") called pursuant to Section 23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 will be held at Arlington Suite, The Grafton Hotel, 130 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9HP on Thursday 18 December 1997 at 10.30am for the purposes of considering and, if thought fit, passing the resolutions referred to in the Joint Administrators proposals under S23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a creditors' committee.

Please note that in accordance with Statement of Insolvency Practice 9 the business of the meeting of creditors may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Administrators are to be remunerated. The Administrators' remuneration should be fixed by the creditors or the creditors' committee either as a percentage of the assets realised or distributed or by reference to the time the Administrators and their staff have spent dealing with this matter.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1997
P J Clark, Joint Administrator

The Insolvency Act 1986
J.R. FURNISHING CONTRACTS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 13th January 1998 at The Old Bakery, Lower Gower Road, Royston, Herts at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated this 5th day of December 1997
By Order of the Board
A M Williams, Director

Cowell Nicols Shipping Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 19th December 1997 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.

It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

DATED THIS 3rd December 1997
J D Cowell - Director

Levison Books Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 19th December 1997 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

DATED THIS 3rd December 1997
J L Levinson - Director

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY
& PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878 OR FAX 0171-481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

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Sir Peter does the prudent thing

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Sir Peter Davis has graciously agreed to bring the Prudential back to the fold of regulatory respectability. With Isas soon to be sold to the nation's savers and the Government planning to push more pensions and health insurance towards the private sector, this is no time to be on the outside.

Howard Davies, now busily reshaping the regulation of financial services under his Financial Services Authority umbrella, has made clear his wish to bring the Pru into line. Subjecting the Prudential to the scrutiny of the Personal Investment Authority is a gesture of good intent that Sir Peter can well afford to make. If his organisation does not improve its lamentable performance on clearing up the debris from its mis-selling of personal pensions, he could face a hefty membership fee, for, as it heads towards extinction, the PIA is gaining a taste for levying fines. But, as Sir Peter will be well aware, it cannot charge retrospectively, so the Pru's failure to meet previous deadlines will go unpunished, save for the "naming and shaming" efforts of the Treasury Minister, Helen Liddell.

Her verbal chastisements may have been partially responsible for persuading Sir Peter to go on national television and apologise, in the mode pioneered by the Prime Minister. At least he had the grace to abstain from the "I'm a good bloke, you can trust honest Pete," routine.

But those organisations which have been fined by the PIA have become increasingly irate that the Pru, one of the worst offenders in the pensions debacle should have escaped with a mea culpa rather than hard cash.

This was the legacy of the irrascible Mick Newmarch, the former Pru chief executive. In 1994, when the PIA was being set up, he refused to join because of his philosophical objections to self-regulation. Newmarch had been at the Pru all his working life so his fears were grounded in experience. Those still waiting for compensation for their mis-sold pensions can testify to just how right he was.

The immoveable Newmarch insisted that the Pru reported solely to the Securities & Investments Board, not the PIA. The ironic result has been that the financial services industry, including the Pru, put on a massive demonstration of its inability to treat customers fairly but Newmarch's prescience meant the Pru escaped the fines.

No wonder he is now being quietly invited back into the City. Already installed as chairman of Bourne End, a small property company, accountants Price Waterhouse recently signed him up as a consultant to their Shareholder Value Services, which claims to advise clients on maximising shareholder value.

EU plans French defence giant

Without a shot being fired or a euro changing hands, the first part of the French plan to take control of Britain's most successful manufacturing industry has been accomplished. Britain's unworldly ministers, along with their German counterparts, have told their private sector firms to prepare plans to merge with France's state player in an "equal partnership".

The model for this is to be a fully corporate version of Airbus, the French-designed and French headquartered consortium built round France's state-owned Aerospatiale. France has already put forward Noël Forgeard, managing director of France's Matra, to become boss of the much-expanded Airbus.

Quite how the equal partnership would work formally is not yet clear. The key, however, is that the French Government intends to retain full control of Aerospatiale as it has rightly made clear from the start.

Starry-eyed Brits, who want this scheme to prove their euro-credentials, said nothing of the inevitable French dominance. Norbert Lammert, Germany's aviation minister, claimed piously that French state control is now "less heavy-handed".

Such wish-fulfilling flannel does not wash with everyone. The French private sector is made of sterner stuff, as it showed over Crédit Lyonnais. Dassault refuses to merge with Aerospatiale while the latter is under state control. So as George Robertson offered UK companies a choice between urgent action or rapid demise, his French counterpart said that merging defence sectors into mega-Airbus will just have to wait.

Britain should not countenance any EU defence grouping with a lop-sided French state interest. Nor should it allow a pan-European deal before UK interests have been strengthened by putting together GEC-Marconi and BAe (along with GKN and Roll-Royce). But intransigent French insistence on hegemony over all joint enterprises pales beside the Anglo-Saxon ego. This winning UK industry will probably be gift-wrapped and handed over before Sir Richard Evans and Lord Simpson can agree which would call the shots at a merged GEC-BAe.

Safeway back on the shopping list

The triumphant terms on which Tesco has brought a halt to its French adventure underline the strength of the top team at the grocer's Cheshunt headquarters and stimulate unflattering comparisons with some of its rivals.

The £253 million deal sees Tesco selling at what must be near the top of the market. Faced with the choice of paying top franc itself to gain worthwhile scale or letting others pay for that privilege, Tesco decided to exit. Lord MacLaurin groomed his successors carefully and would have been proud of their decision.

But while chief executive Terry Leahy is building on the strength that MacLaurin created, Safeway continues to look vulnerable. The chaps Sir Alistair Grant has left minding the shop may not have the toughness of the grocery business sufficiently embedded in them. Yesterday the rumours that Asda, a far more aggressive animal, may be planning a hostile bid were in the market once more. Asda denies the story, insisting that the merger talks between the two are not going to be resurrected because Mrs Beckett might object.

Nonetheless, Asda would like to get its claws on the larger stores in the Safeway portfolio. A carve up of the Safeway business would upset Molly, simpering star of the chain's commercials, but customers would probably not grieve for too long.

Playing tag

THE vast Bluewater Park shopping centre being built near Dartford is already 70 per cent let and is promising to bring a welcome financial bonus to Blue Circle, which owned the site. More than £50 million could cascade towards the company if rents pour in as planned. But there will be other beneficiaries, including the makers of electronic tagging devices. Children visiting the centre will be tagged to avoid escape.

Scotia Holdings founder quits in surprise move

By Paul Durman

DAVID HORROBIN has made a surprise decision to give up his job as chief executive of Scotia Holdings, the unconventional drug-development company that he founded nearly 20 years ago.

Sherri Clarkson, Dr Horrobin's wife and head of Scotia's drug-discovery division, is also leaving, along with Jeff Boily, who was responsible for worldwide commercial operations.

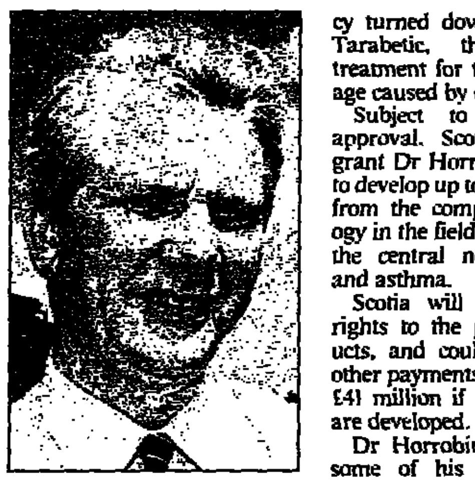
Dr Horrobin plans to pay Scotia an initial £1 million to take on several early-stage projects in schizophrenia and asthma.

Dr Horrobin's decision to leave comes barely three months after Robert Dow joined Scotia as its medical and development director. Dr Dow was previously worldwide head of development at Roche, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical groups. He will replace Dr Horrobin as chief executive.

Dr Horrobin, 58, said that he had not come under any pressure to leave and simply wanted to spend more time on research and development.

He said: "I want to start again and build something up again. Everybody would say that I am extremely good at R&D but that I do not have any special management skills."

Scotia is unusual for its emphasis on the fatty molecules known as lipids. In spite of its small size — with 400 employees and annual sales running at about £20 million — the company's operations are widely spread, with facilities in Carlisle, Stirling, Nova Scotia, southern Sweden and even on the Isle of Lewis.


Horrobin: research aim

Dr Horrobin has steered several lipid-based products through full clinical trials but has found it more difficult to secure marketing approvals.

Scotia's shares collapsed earlier this year when the UK's Medicines Control Agency turned down approval of Tarabetic, the company's treatment for the nerve damage caused by diabetes.

Subject to shareholders' approval, Scotia intends to grant Dr Horrobin the rights to develop up to 15 compounds from the company's technology in the fields of psychiatry, the central nervous system and asthma.

Scotia will retain royalty rights to the potential products, and could also receive other payments totalling up to £41 million if all 15 products are developed.

Dr Horrobin plans to sell some of his family trust's interest in 13.1 million shares (worth about £54 million yesterday) to finance his new venture. He has agreed to retain at least nine million shares for a year. He will remain a non-executive director of Scotia, and continue to act as a consultant on patents.

Vaux rises as Swallow soars

SWALLOW HOTELS was once again the star performer as Vaux, the brewing and leisure group, reported a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £38.3 milllion for the year to the end of September (Dominic Walsh writes).

Profits at Swallow were up 16.6 per cent to £28 million as average room occupancy rose from 71.7 to 73.5 per cent and the room rate climbed 8 per cent to £49.40.

Managed houses raised profits 9.6 per cent to £9.8 million while tenancies dipped 8.2 per cent to £11.8 million on a reduction in pub numbers.

Brewing and wholesaling was up 6.8 per cent to £4.8 million.

Earnings per share were up 11.7 per cent to 23.4p and the final dividend, payable on February 6, is 7.4p, making 11.1p, up from 10.6p.

Compass turns to strategy of organic growth

By Dominic Walsh

FRANCIS MACKAY, chief executive of Compass Group, the contract catering company, yesterday ruled out further big acquisitions and vowed to pursue significant organic growth.

After a year in which Compass acquired Daka International of the US and leapt to third in the French market with the purchase of SHRM, Mr Mackay said: "We're moving away from the big acquisition and looking at gripping what we've got."

His comments came as the group reported a 20 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptionals to £137.2 million from turnover 40 per cent ahead at £3.7 billion. UK operating profits were 17 per cent up at £47.6 million, on margins up from 6.9 to 7.1 per cent. Like-for-like turnover was 11 per cent ahead in the UK compared with 8 per cent in continental Europe and North America. Contract wins during the year included the staff catering at Euro Disneyland and at Heathrow. It will also operate the catering at the Stade de France, the new Paris stadium that will host some of next year's World Cup matches.

Mr Mackay said the prospects for "significant organic growth" were excellent for the next few years. "The process of outsourcing is moving into new sectors of health and education. In the US alone there is still over $25 billion (£15 billion) worth of business yet to be outsourced."

Adjusted earnings per share were up 18.1 per cent to 31.5p and a final dividend of 6.7p, to be paid on April 7, makes 9.8p (8.6p).

Tempus, page 28

Profits sink at Hozelock

HEAVY rainfall, the strong pound and continued hosepipe bans have all caused headaches for Hozelock, the garden equipment manufacturer, which yesterday reported a 27 per cent plunge in pre-tax profits for the year to September 27 from £9.8 million to £7.1 million (Chris Ayres writes).

The company's shares have also suffered, falling from 551p last year to a low of 280p after the wettest June this century. They were unchanged yesterday at 316p.

Hozelock said it had ended the year on a more positive note, with sales up by 3.1 per cent from £51 million to £52.6 million.

Earnings per share fell by 26 per cent to 20.1p (27.2p) and a final dividend of 7.9p will be paid on February 13, bringing the total to 11.3 (11p).

Tesco to earn £80m profit in French sale

By Chris Ayres

TESCO, the UK supermarket group, will earn almost £80 million profit on the sale of Catteau, its troubled French food retail division (see Commentary this page).

Catteau has been sold to Promodès, its French rival, for £253 million, significantly higher than the £225 million expected. The deal is subject to the approval of the European Commission. Tesco will keep its Tesco Vin Plus stores at Cité d'Europe in Calais.

The move ends Tesco's ambitious expansion plans for France, which were scuppered by intense local competition, rigid planning rules and high prices. It bought Catteau, which operates 105 stores, for £178 million in 1993, and appointed a French industry heavyweight as president. However, the group still failed to make a significant profit.

Tesco will focus instead on emerging markets in central Europe. It already has 91 stores in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland, and plans to open stores on a further 16 sites.

Brokerage cuts service

By Richard Miles

FIDELITY Brokerage Services, the telephone-based stockbroker, is withdrawing from the institutional securities market following a six-month strategic review of operations.

The company said yesterday that it is to wind down its capital markets operation with immediate effect. But it declined to comment on the level of job losses that would result from the closure.

Fidelity's decision to shut down its institutional business follows a £250,000 fine from the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog, after the discovery of a string of administrative and computer problems.

Strong pound fails to halt BTP advance

BTP, the chemicals company, lifted pre-tax profits to £25.16 million from £23.66 million in the half-year to the end of September, in spite of an adverse £1.8 million translation effect from the strength of sterling (Martin Barrow writes).

Acquisitions contributed £3.2 million to group operating profits that rose to £27.2 million from £24.6 million previously. Steve Hannam, chief executive, said the fine chemicals division enjoyed a particularly strong first half, helped by the £44.3 million acquisition of PCR, based in Florida.

Earnings were 10.53p a share, up from 9.91p previously.

The interim dividend is increased to 4.2p a share from 4.05p.

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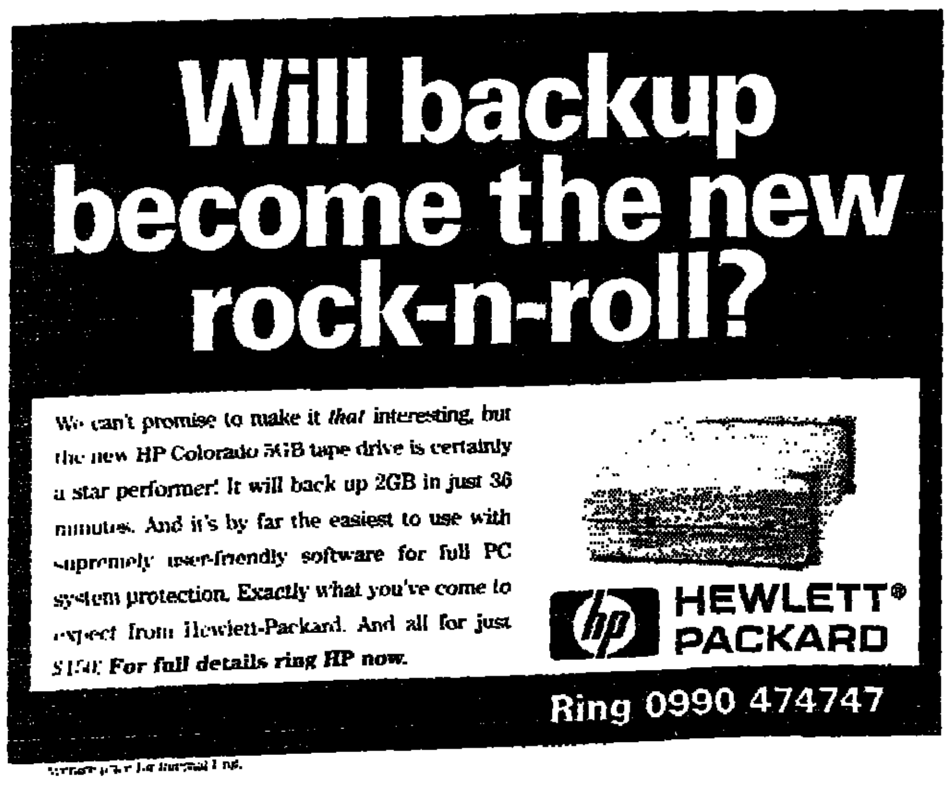
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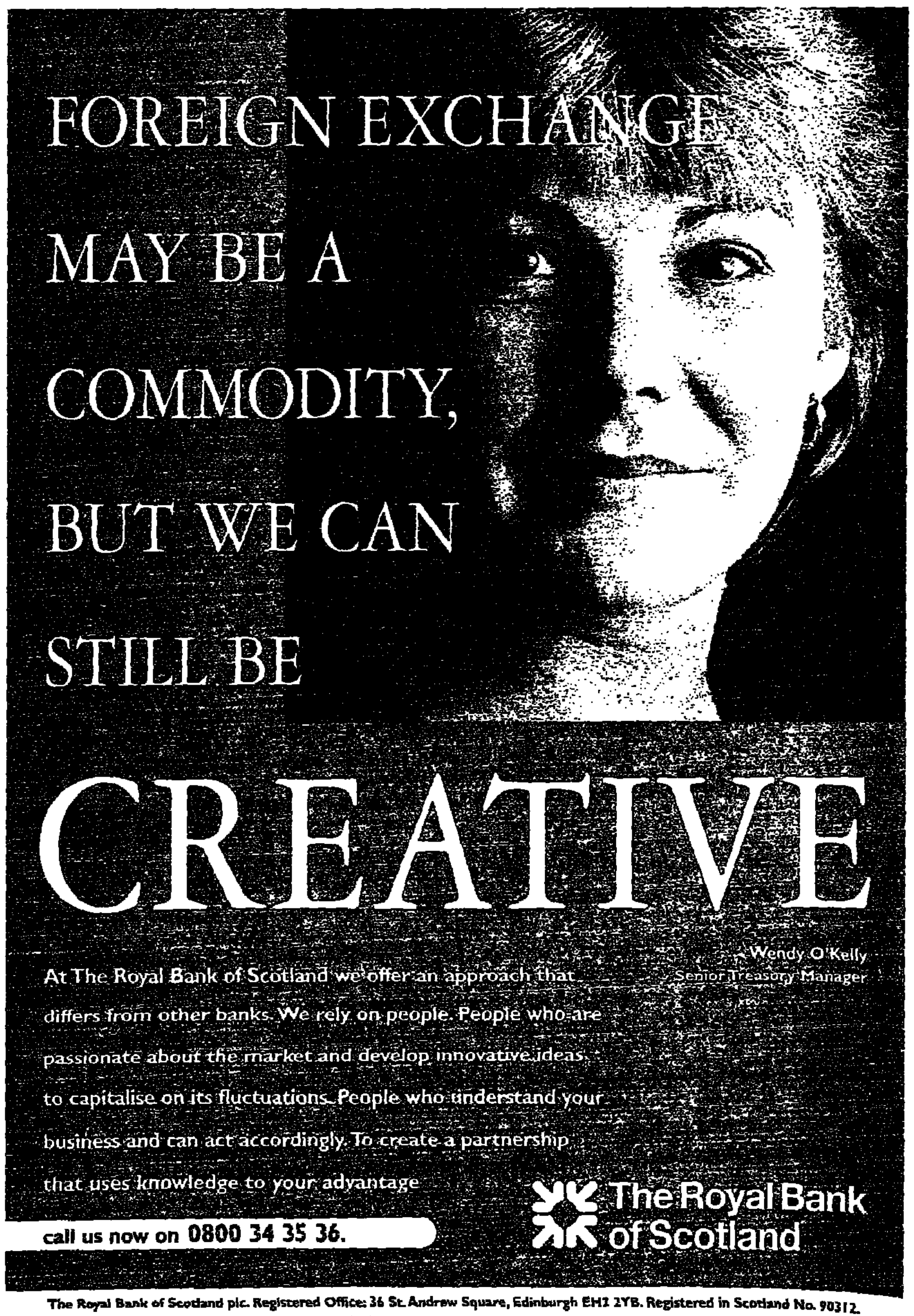
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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Banks underpin prices as buyers look for rally

SHARE prices in London closed with modest losses, but brokers are convinced the market is already building up a full head of steam for the seasonal pre-Christmas rally.

The equity market was certainly resilient enough to shrug off an opening fall of almost 60 points on Wall Street in the wake of several significant profit warnings.

After losing an early lead, the FTSE 100 index put in a late rally, reducing a 32-point deficit to just 10.3 at 5,177.1 by the close. A total of 803 million shares changed hands.

Sentiment was bolstered by the unchanged inflation rate and further evidence of a slowdown in high street spending. It is hoped these latest indicators may be enough to prevent any further rises in interest rates.

Once again it was the banks that underpinned the market in the hope that this week's merger between Swiss Bank Corporation and Union Bank of Switzerland will prompt a spate of similar moves in this country. **Barclays** rose 66p to £16.39, **Alliance & Leicester** *16½p to 785p, and* **NatWest Bank** 18p to £10.16.

Safeway advanced 13p to 338p amid growing speculation that bid talks with rival **Asda**, ¾p better at 174¼p, may be back on again.

British Aerospace soared 73p to £17.68 on the back of calls by various countries to draw up plans for restructuring the European defence industry.

National Grid dipped 7p to 293p ahead of the start of dealings on a when issued basis in **Energis**, its telecoms subsidiary, which was priced at 290p. The range of offers was pitched between 275p and 320p. At these levels, the business is valued at almost £900 million. The price touched a high for the day of 297½p before settling at 292p, a premium of 2p.

Some negative comments from Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, left **Arjo Wiggins** 4½p lower at 167p and **Rexam** 13p at 277½p. It seems Goldman is worried about the impact the turmoil in the Far East may have on prospects.

Full-year results from **Compass**, up 4½p at 720½p, lived *up to City expectations.* Pretax profits of the independent caterer, headed by Francis Mackay, chief executive, jumped 20 per cent to £137.2 million with the help of recent acquisitions.

Francis Mackay, left, with Roger Matthew, managing director, of Compass, up 4½p on good full-year figures

It was the first day of trading in **Bovis Homes** after being demerged from **P&O**, 3p better at 673p. The shares were placed at 200p, but after briefly touching 204½p came off the boil to close with a 1p discount on the day at 199p.

The profits warning and dividend cut from **Matthew Clark** left its shares nursing a loss of 46½p at 183½p and also affected others in the drinks sector with **HP Bulmer** down 6p at 407½p, while **Merrydown**, which last week received a bid approach, shed 2p at 63½p.

Where there is muck, there is brass as **Waste Recycling** discovered yesterday after the price climbed 13½p to 304½p.

It has paid £12 million to handle Cambridgeshire County Council's waste disposal operation.

As expected, **Capital Radio** suffered an early markdown, touching 472½p on learning that it had lost out to DJ Chris Evans in the tussle for control of Richard Branson's Virgin Radio. The shares closed 2½p better at 502½p.

Wellman firmed 2½p to 40p. Word is, we should hear soon that the group has agreed an all-paper deal worth 50p a share after a recent bid approach.

Hambros perked up 7p at 265p. It has been talking to Société Générale de Belgique about the sale of certain parts of its business. City speculators claim **Royal Bank of Scotland**, up 9½p at 777p is ready to bid with La Générale.

Christies International surged 24½p to 275p despite the breakdown in bid talks earlier this week. Brokers say another bidder may be stalking the shares.

Telewest contined to make headway, adding 5p at 84½p on mounting speculation that US West, its near 30 per cent shareholder, may be poised to launch an £800 million offer.

Speculative buying also pushed **Securicor** 16½p higher at 306½p. **BT** was 3½p harder at 477p.

Partners Holdings tumbled 71½p to 90p on the back of a profits warning.

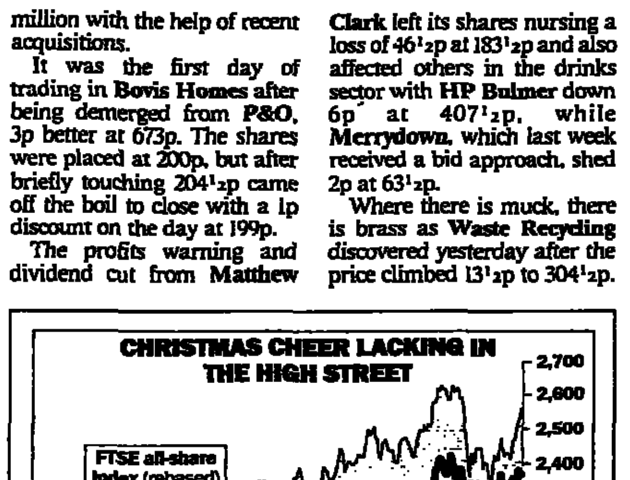
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gains stretched to more than £¾ at the longer end, boding well for today's auction. Brokers reported buying all along the curve as the Bank of England prepared to offer £2 billion of Treasury 6½ per cent 2003.

Sentiment was enhanced by fresh evidence of a slow-down in retail spending and the unchanged inflation number.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt put on £$^{9}/_{16}$ at £120⅜ as the total number of contracts completed more than doubled on the previous days' total to 71,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose £$^{25}/_{32}$ to £120$^{5}/_{32}$, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 put on £$^{7}/_{32}$ at £101$^{9}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were down by midday after a rout in technology stocks rippled through the wider market, triggering profit-taking after the sharp climb of the past week. The Dow Jones industrial average stood at 8,098.65, a fall of 12.19 points.



FEWER than 15 shopping days left to Christmas and all is not well on the high street. The latest survey from the British Retail Consortium showed growth in November slowing to its lowest since April 1996. Losses were recorded in Marks & Spencer, 17p to 624p, Storehouse, 5p to 242p, Carpetright, 13p to 467½p, Dixons, 23p to 635½p, DFS Furniture, 13p to 558½p, Hamleys, 5p to 316½p, and Next, 27p to 709p.

NatWest Markets, the broker, has turned cautious with John Richards warning: "Spending may pick up towards Christmas but retailers face a white-knuckle ride."

He says that prices of electrical goods are being cut, offsetting any volume growth. This could prove a threat to the likes of Dixons, Argos, off 3p at 616½p, and Thorn, unchanged at 152½p. Children's wear remains depressed with branded footwear sales moving into sports stores. But the warm weather is helping DIY and the likes of *Kingfisher, up 3p at 851p.*

"Retailers may be driven into cutting prices to secure sales," Mr Richards says.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	8098.65 (-12.19)
S&P Composite	981.10 (-1.27)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	16686.51 (+534.94)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	11490.66 (-232.74)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	924.00 (-2.47)

Sydney:

AO	2582.8 (-4.2)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4184.91 (-38.45)

Singapore:

Straits	1734.22 (-19.41)

Brussels:

General	14175.49 (-90.05)

Paris:

CAC-40	2959.40 (+26.93)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1243.10 (-1.80)

London:

FT 30	3291.9 (+0.4)
FTSE 100	5177.1 (-10.3)
FTSE 250	4781.6 (+0.6)
FTSE 350	2485.3 (-4.0)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2688.89 (+5.88)
FTSE All-Share	2424.81 (+2.53)
FTSE Non Financials	2432.93 (+7.34)
FTSE Fixed Interest	132.98 (+0.73)
FTSE Govt Secs	100.80 (+0.41)
Bargains	53003
SEAQ Volume	803.0m
US$	1.6456 (-0.0018)
German Mark	2.9529 (+0.0062)
Exchange Index	104.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4898
£:SDR	1.2261
RPI	159.6 Nov (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.0 Nov (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

Advance UK Tst	101½	- ½
BG 'B'	30½	...
Boustead	20½	...
Bovis Homes	199	...
CRC	134½	...
Capital Opps Tst	113½	...
Comland Comm	68	...
Cresco Intl	153½	...
Flmg Geared Uts	76	+ 3½
Foresight Tech Wts	25	...
Foresight Tech	85	...
Manchester & Lon	270	...
Market Link Publ	55	...
Metalsrussia	74½	...
Minorplanet Sys	57½	...
Northern Recrmnt	143½	+ 11
Nottingham Frst (70)	54	...
Range Cooker Cmpy	6½	...
Rapid Technology	93½	- 3
Savoy Asset Mngmt	113½	...
ScS Upholstery	113½	...
Seascope Shipping	253	...
Second Scot Zr Dv	100½	...
Second Scottish Natl	100½	...
Tetra	175	...
Vanguard Med Wts	43½	...

FI Group n/p (640)	195	- 10
Green Prop n/p (350)	36	+ 6

RISES:

Christies	275p (+24½p)
Cairn Energy	486½p (+22p)
Safeway	338p (+13p)
Bk of Ireland	914p (+28p)
Diagonal	595p (+17½p)
Mersey Docks	443½p (+11p)
Close Bros	549½p (+13p)
Alliance & Leic	785p (+16½p)
Rio Tinto Ltd	721p (+12¼p)

FALLS:

REXAM	277½p (-13p)
Shield Diag	700p (-32½p)
Hutch Whamp	419p (-18¼p)
Next	709p (-27p)
Vanguard	410p (-15p)
Dixons Gp	635½p (-23p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Compass finds its direction

AFTER the frenetic pace of deals of recent years, it may take some time to adjust to the idea that Compass can make very good progress without the help of more acquisitions. The truth is, the catering group has already established big businesses in its main markets of the UK, continental Europe and North America. Compass had sales of £1.8 billion in continental Europe last year and turned over £1.2 billion in North America — and that's before a full contribution from SHRM in France and DAKA International in the US, bought in July for a combined total of *about £350 million.*

Just integrating these companies should enable the group to produce better results. More importantly, Compass has built an international network that leaves it well placed to benefit from the continuing trend to contract out the provision of food to employees. The market extends from companies to schools and from universities to hospitals and is already worth many billions of pounds.

For investors, one of the greatest attractions is the low demand on capital. Compass is forecast to start generating substantial amounts of cash. Even though it is now labouring under £877 million of debt, it is already contemplating buying in up to 10 per cent of its shares.

Pre-tax profits, up 20 per cent to £137.2 million last year, look set to approach £160 *million this year,* and almost £200 million next. The shares have been strong over the past few months and at 720½p stand on about 20 times forecasts of this year's earnings. Given the growth prospects, that looks fair value.

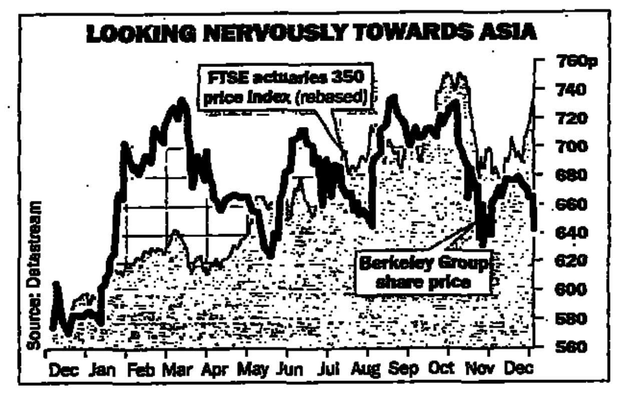
Berkeley Group

BERKELEY GROUP is growing at such a lick that it will soon be Britain's first £100 million a year housebuilder. But while this year's and next year's profits look to be in the bag, more distant prospects are less certain.

With a £43.9 million profit on £274 million of first-half sales, Berkeley is now making a pre-tax margin of 16 per cent. As a comparison, Wilson Bowden manages about 12.5 per cent, while Barratt *Developments rubs* along on under 10 per cent.

The specialist nature of Berkeley's developments, and the expense of the homes it offers, give it some protection from pressures felt more keenly in the rest of the housing market. But the rising land prices will eventually make themselves felt. The company is sanguine *about the potential loss of* sales to Far Eastern buyers. The problem will be to find new purchasers once the existing forward sales are completed.

Many of the Far Eastern sales are of London properties that are reckoned to be perhaps twice as profitable as sales outside London. If the UK economy slows next *year, the recent growth* will be difficult to sustain. That the City's worries are so forward-looking is a testament to the fundamental strength of Berkeley's business. While they linger, it is difficult to see any near-term excitement in the shares. The company's track record should persuade existing investors to hang on to them.



Matthew Clark

PROFIT warnings have become a bad habit at Matthew Clark, whose latest excuse was poor trading in the run-up to Christmas. This, remember, *just six months* since Peter Aikens, the embattled chief executive, announced: "We now have a completely stable business."

Last year, there was a double whammy of competition from alcopops allied to the Chancellor's decision to slap a rise in duty on premium-strength ciders — both causing damage to sales of Clark brands such as Diamond White. Mr Aikens admitted that Diamond White volumes were up to 40 per cent down on November 1995, when the brand was acquired along with Taunton Cider. Just to add to the pain, consumers seem to be switching to drinking their premium cider from cans, where margins are less than half those on bottles.

The board has not sat on its hands. In the current year alone it expects to spend up to £10 million on advertising, matching a similar commitment from rival HP Bulmer. It is also wisely investing its more resilient whosesale and *non-cider businesses.*

After yesterday's dive from 230p to 183½p, the shares stand at less than eight times this year's likely earnings. Cheap, but the board has a long way to go before it regains investors' confidence.

Baronsmead

WITH Baronsmead falling to a £20.3 million bid from 3i, one might suppose the small band of venture capital investment trusts is set to shrink further. 3i is buying a portfolio of shares at a 15 per cent discount to net asset value — so keen are investment trust shareholders to take a cash exit. With such apparent bargains on offer, what is stopping 3i or other predators gobbling up the rest?

Unfortunately, the issue is not quite so straightforward and consequently shares in venture capital trusts are not such a good bet as they may seem. By nature, their holding are unquoted and hard to sell quickly, so *they do not attract the vultures* who often prise open underperforming boards. This is a sector for specialists. Despite the discount, 3i's offer for Baronsmead still beat three rival bids. It is not ungenerous, given the risks involved in realising the investments.

Other trusts that have repeated Baronsmead's error of focusing on the smallest unquoted companies could also be vulnerable. However, investors may do better in the simpler, smaller company sector where share performance has been equally bad. A merger between the identical Moorgate and Smaller Company trusts, both managed by Martin Currie, would make sense.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	1040-1035	Mar	1156-1154
Mar	1069-1068	May	1170-1168
May	1087-1085	Jul	1184-1181
Jul	1105-1102	Sep	1202-1195
Sep	1122-1120		
Dec	1136-1135		Volume: 7589

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1765 BID	Sep	unq
Mar	1759-1755	Nov	...
May	1743-1740	Jan	...
Jul	1735 SLR		Volume: 7573

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	309.9-09.1
Spot: 300.5		Dec	312.0-09.0
Mar	308.9-08.7	Mar	315.4-10.5
May	314.0-13.7	May	315.0-13.0
Aug	315.9-15.5		Volume: 2094

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 8

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	64.04	95.39	96.69
(+/-)	+2.27	+2.74	+5.57
Eng/Wales:	63.87	95.80	95.57
(+/-)	+2.17	+2.91	+5.31
(%)	-3.0	+6.0	-13.0
Scotland	69.35	91.37	104.01
(+/-)	+5.92	+1.64	+10.05
(%)	-17.0	-12.0	-56.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.55	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Jan)	18.05	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	18.15	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.70	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.95	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	188 (n/c)	191 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	167 (-4)	169 (-4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	89 (n/c)	91 (n/c)
Naphtha	178 (-1)	181 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	163.25-63.50	Mar	164.50-64.75
Jan	164.25-64.50	Apr	164.00-64.25
Feb	164.75-65.00		Vol: 18574

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	18.00-18.02	Apr	18.10-18.15
Feb	18.08-18.10	May	18.09-18.12
Mar	18.10-18.15		Vol: 33756

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	81.60	Jan	75.30
Mar	83.60	Mar	77.95
May	85.60	May	79.00
Jul	87.60	Sep	80.25
Sep	82.75	Nov	82.25
Volume: 447		Volume: 158	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	87.5
Apr	112.0	110.0
May	unq	120.0
		Volume: 7

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 47.75-48.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 97	1250	1240	1250
Jan 98	1285	1280	1280
Feb 98	1280	1265	1280
Apr 98	1345	1340	1345

Vol: 106 lots Open interest: 1574

Index 1221 +10

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1787.0-1788.0	1816.0-1817.0	1089150
Lead ($/tonne)	515.00-516.00	530.00-530.05	247850
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1096.0-1096.5	1120.0-1121.0	27807
Tin ($/tonne)	5660.0-5665.0	5515.0-5520.0	19025
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1552.5-1553.0	1573.5-1574.0	2361700
Nickel ($/tonne)	5955.0-5565.0	6045.0-6050.0	104106

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
ASDA	160	17	22½	26½	2½	5½	[illegible]
(*173½)	180	7	12	16	11	14	16
Abbey Nat	1000	63½	97½	124½	40	72½	87½
(*1016½)	1050	40	73½	99½	67	99	113
[illegible]	750	51½	71½	88	14½	28½	37½
(*782½)	800	23½	47	61½	36½	52½	61
All Dom	500	50½	65½	77½	5½	16½	21½
(*540½)	550	20	36	53½	23	37½	43
BAA	500	22½	41½	53	19	30½	39
(*500½)	550	6	21	32	53½	61	68½
BAT Ind	550	32½	52½	63	25½	47	53
(*554)	600	13	29	43	56	77½	83
Barclays	1600	105½	162	213½	84	105½	133½
(*1636)	1700	59	114	164½	117	158	184½
Bass	900	30½	60½	71½	35½	54½	62
(*907)	950	12½	39	51½	68½	84	90½
Boots	850	63½	93	110	17	32	42
(*891)	900	36	67½	83	38	54½	64½
Br Airways	550	38	60½	72½	17	30½	38½
(*563½)	600	16½	37½	49½	45	58½	63½
BP	800	67½	95	114	15½	33½	48½
(*847)	850	38½	69	88½	34	55	69
Br Steel	140	9½	15½	20	5	9	14
(*143)	160	2½	7½	11½	18	20½	26
C&W	500	56½	73	85	9	27	30
(*547)	550	26	46	58½	27	42½	53
CU	850	82	109½	120	30	61½	62½
(*893)	900	55½	84	95	53	88½	87
GlaxoW	1400	88	134	174½	43½	81½	99½
(*1436)	1450	62½	108½	149½	65	105½	123½
HSBC	1600	169½	240	283	77	139	163½
(*1683½)	1700	114½	191½	240½	119	190½	215
Halifax	700	49½	67	82½	9½	25½	31
(*735½)	750	20	40	58½	30½	50	54½
ICI	850	68	88	110	17½	41	55
(*894)	900	37	60½	84½	38	64	79
Land Sec	1000	46½	64	71	39½	58	60½
(*1006)	1050	26½	41	48	66½	78	88
M&S	600	42	60½	73	15	27½	34
(*623½)	650	17½	35	47½	39	46½	57
Nat Pwr	550	52½	76½	85	10	22	29
(*591)	600	22	48	57½	29	45	52
Nat West	1000	66½	91	114	51	85	87½
(*1004½)	1050	47	70½	91½	79	113	115
Reuters	650	59	79½	95½	8	24½	32
(*690)	700	28	50½	68	26	46	54½
[illegible]	600	40½	56	72	22	44½	50½
(*615½)	650	18	34½	49	49	72	78
Safeway	330	19½	31½	39	12½	18	22
(*338½)	360	8½	15	25½	29	34½	39
Sainsbury	500	31½	47½	58	13½	20½	30
(*515)	550	9½	25	34½	42	48	58½
Shell	425	28	—	—	12	—	—
(*443)	450	18	—	—	19½	—	—
SmKl Bch	600	42½	67	85½	19½	40½	44½
(*620)	625	29	55	—	31	53	—
[illegible]	750	51	69	103½	43½	65	76½
(*750½)	800	39	46½	80	71	91	103
Thames W	950	31½	60½	77	34	45½	62
(*951½)	1000	13½	40	55½	67	76½	81
Vodafone	390	36	51½	64	15	26	32
(*408½)	420	21	37	49½	29½	41	46½
Woolwich	300	23½	31½	36½	4½	11	14½
(*315½)	330	8	16½	21½	19	26½	30
Zeneca	1900	124	180	238½	48	98½	105
(*1967)	2000	72	129½	184	92	142½	152

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
BTR	160	25½	31	33½	5	10½	12
(*178½)	180	14½	20½	24½	13	20	23½
Blue Circ	330	26½	35½	38	14	20½	24
(*337)	360	13½	22½	25	31	37½	41
Br Aero	1700	141½	191½	236½	56½	87½	111½
(*1762½)	1800	90½	140½	186	101½	135	159
Br Telecom	465	27	—	—	19½	—	—
(*474)	515	8½	—	—	51½	—	—
Cadbury	630	53	66½	76	11½	26½	30½
(*633½)	650	24½	41	50	35	51	54½
Energy Gp	600	48½	58	64	9½	15½	15½
(*636½)	650	21½	31	34½	28	35	37
Gallaher	330	21½	28½	33½	17½	25½	27½
(*332½)	360	9	15	21	35½	43½	45
GEC	390	32	43½	53	10½	16½	25½
(*408½)	420	16	28	38	25	30½	40½

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	—	Puts Feb	Puts May	—
Grnd Met	550	53	61½	—	14	26½	—
(*578½)	600	26½	37½	—	37½	52½	—

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Guinness	550	51	65	73	15	24½	27
(*580)	600	25	40	47	38½	49½	51½
Hanson	280	21½	30	33	9	16½	18½
(*288)	300	12	20½	23½	18½	27	29
Imp Tob	360	38½	50½	54½	4	18½	15
(*389½)	390	20	32½	37½	14½	27	27½
Kingfshr	800	82	99	114	23½	38½	44½
(*847½)	850	53½	72½	88½	42½	63	68
Lasmo	260	26½	35½	39½	8½	11½	13
(*277)	280	15½	26	29	14	20	22
Ladbroke	280	19	29	35½	12	20	22½
(*283)	300	10	20	26½	24	31	33½
LucasVar	180	21½	29	31	4½	10½	9½
(*194)	200	11	19	21	12½	19	18½
P&O	650	49	59	67	22	31	42
(*668)	700	21	34½	44	46½	58	69
Prudentl	700	59½	75	93½	34½	53½	81½
(*716)	750	34	52	69½	61½	79½	88
Rio Tinto	750	73½	87½	102	23½	45	54
(*791)	800	45½	61	76½	45	69½	78½
Redland	330	15½	16½	16	½	0½	½
(*343½)	360	—	—	½	16½	16½	16½
R-Royce	240	19	27	33	12½	16½	18
(*246½)	260	10½	17½	23½	22	26½	28½
Tesco	500	33	44	55½	19½	31	38
(*505½)	550	12½	22½	34	50½	60	65½
Utd Bisc	200	23	28	29	4	9	11
(*217)	220	10½	14	18½	10½	18½	20½

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
BG PLC	283	10	26½	31	4½	15½	19½
(*287½)	306	2	16½	20½	19½	26½	32
BSkyB	420	29½	51½	65	1½	22	29½
(*448½)	460	6½	31½	46	18	42½	49½
Br Bio	100	10½	23	25½	2	10	14
(*108)	110	5	17	21½	6	15½	19½
Centrica	90	4½	11½	14½	2	7	9½
(*93)	100	½	7½	11	8	13	15
Dixons	600	40½	71	88	1½	23½	32½
(*638½)	650	8	44	61½	19	45	54½
EMI	460	31½	56	72½	2½	23½	31½
(*487)	492	12	40½	—	14½	39	—
Granada	850	23½	58½	78½	6½	38	44½
(*866)	900	2½	35½	52	36	63½	71
GUS	700	38	68½	85½	3	26	34½
(*733½)	750	9½	42½	60	24	49	58
Lloyds TSB	750	28½	68½	90	10	44½	55
(*768)	800	7½	45½	68½	38	71	80½
Lonrho	90	6	12	14½	1	8	9
(*94½)	100	1½	8	10½	6½	14	14½
Norwich	380	25	41	48	1	14	17½
(*383½)	390	5	24½	32	11½	26½	31½
Orange	260	9½	24	31	3	14	18
(*266½)	280	2	14½	21	14½	25	28½
Railtrack	1050	43½	105½	132	13	53½	65
(*1081)	1100	18½	82	107	36	77½	89
Scot Pwr	500	12½	40	58	7	28½	37
(*510½)	550	—	22	38½	40	55½	65½
Tarmac	110	6½	12½	14½	½	4½	6½
(*116)	120	1	7	8½	5	8	11½
Tomkins	280	18	25½	33½	1½	9½	13
(*295)	300	3½	15	23	8	18½	22½
Unilever	500	12½	38½	46	6½	25	32
(*505)	525	3½	26½	33½	21½	38	45

December 9 Total: 39176 Calls: 21675 Puts: 17501

FTSE INDEX (*5184)

Strike	Calls Dec	Calls Jan	Calls Feb	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Jan	Puts Feb	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
5000	204½	270	338	372	480½	22½	73½	109	150½	211½
5050	161½	233	300	339	—	31½	86½	123	169	—
5100	124	197	288½	307½	418	46	101½	142	187½	247½
5150	92	165	237	276	—	64	122	161½	206	—
5200	61½	135	303	244½	355½	87	143½	182	225½	286
5250	40	107½	171½	215	—	118	169	205½	248½	—
5300	25	85½	147	191½	301	155	198½	236	275½	334
5350	13	65	124	168½	—	198½	232	266	303½	—

December 9 Total: 5660 Calls: 3077 Puts: 2583

*Underlying security price

FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 97	119-06	119-29	119-06	119-25	4443
Previous open interest 205147	Mar 98	119-23	120-15	119-21	120-12	71391
German Gov't Bond (Bund)	Mar 98	103.77	103.82	103.58	103.67	130932
Previous open interest 259723	Jun 98	103.04	103.04	102.96	103.02	168
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Mar 98	103.43	103.52	103.42	103.43	1914
Previous open interest 7873	Jun 98				102.85	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 98	114.82	114.95	114.60	114.66	21213
Previous open interest 114521	Jun 98	114.17	114.25	114.17	114.15	21
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 98	129.48	129.55	129.24	129.33	2560
	Jun 98	129.04	129.04	129.04	128.691	
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.32	92.33	92.30	92.31	17474
	Mar 98	92.28	92.32	92.28	92.31	37028
Previous open interest 800923	Jun 98	92.38	92.44	92.38	92.42	37477
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.22	96.23	96.22	96.23	14809
Previous open interest 1951268	Mar 98	96.08	96.09	96.07	96.08	30774
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.95	93.95	93.91	93.92	14260
Previous open interest 602991	Mar 98	94.72	94.73	94.69	94.71	11935
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	98.10	98.14	98.09	98.11	3541
Previous open interest 164813	Mar 98	98.06	98.06	98.01	98.02	8570
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.45	95.46	95.45	95.46	506
Previous open interest 39587	Mar 98	95.40	95.41	95.39	95.39	431
FTSE 100	Dec 97	5205.0	5218.0	5168.0	5178.0	14018
Previous open interest 68826	Mar 98	5233.0	5263.5	5218.5	5226.5	3939

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7[illegible]

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7[illegible] Low 6 Week fixed: 7[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 7[illegible]; 3 mth 7[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth: 6[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 7[illegible], close 6[illegible].

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.90	n/a	5.83	5.85	5.99
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

Bullion: Open $286.00-186.30 Close: $283.40-283.90 High: $287.00-287.35

Low: $281.40-281.90 AM: $285.50 PM: $283.25

Krugerrand: $286.00-288.00 (£176.00-178.00)

Platinum: $374.50 (£227.95) Silver: $5.43 (£2.285) Palladium: $206.50 (£125.20)

Mkt Rates for Dec 9	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3146-3.3301	3.3266-3.3301	1½-1¼pr	3½-3pr
Brussels	60.660-60.938	60.867-60.938	24-19pr	61-54pr
Copenhagen	11.197-11.249	11.240-11.249	[illegible]pr	1-[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.1282-1.1358	1.1333-1.1355	14-8pr	43-36pr
Frankfurt	2.9409-2.9547	2.9518-2.9547	1-[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	300.20-301.56	301.23-301.56	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Madrid	248.53-249.54	249.33-249.54	59-49pr	173-154pr
Milan	2879.6-2891.6	2888.9-2891.6	40-24pr	118-95pr
Montreal	2.3370-2.3418	2.3385-2.3406	0.74-0.69pr	1.41-1.32pr
New York	1.6452-1.6474	1.6452-1.6461	0.233-0.212pr	0.698-0.667pr
Oslo	11.889-11.968	11.956-11.968	[illegible]pr	1½-1pr
Paris	9.8400-9.8889	9.8827-9.8889	3½-3½pr	9½-9½pr
Stockholm	12.832-12.905	12.890-12.905	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	213.62-214.71	213.62-213.82	1½-1½pr	3½-3½pr
Vienna	20.693-20.792	20.769-20.792	[illegible]pr	2-1½pr
Zurich	2.3949-2.4079	2.4030-2.4079	1½-1½pr	3½-3½pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

Australia	1.4988-1.4999
Austria	12.59-12.60
Belgium (Com)	36.91-36.95
Canada	1.4231-1.4218
Denmark	6.8135-6.8155
France	5.9900-5.9910
Germany	1.7893-1.7898
Hong Kong	7.7393-7.7403
Ireland	1.4489-1.4539
Italy	1750.80-1752.30
Japan	129.80-129.85
Malaysia	3.6661-3.6759
Netherlands	2.0162-2.0167
Norway	7.2357-7.2391
Portugal	182.60-182.70
Singapore	1.6250-1.6265
Spain	151.18-151.21
Sweden	7.8114-7.8164
Switzerland	1.4567-1.4577

Argentina peso*	1.6472-1.6499
Australia dollar	2.4675-2.4712
Bahrain dinar	0.6140-0.6280
Brazil real*	1.8290-1.8335
China yuan	13.499-13.799
Cyprus pound	0.8490-0.8680
Finland markka	8.8375-8.9785
Greece drachma	457.25-467.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.7397-12.7467
India rupee	63.56-64.86
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4975-0.5085
Malaysia ringgit	6.0348-6.0535
New Zealand dollar	2.7559-2.7603
Pakistan rupee	71.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9325-6.0675
Singapore dollar	2.6749-2.6785
S Africa rand (com)	7.9430-8.1120
U A E dirham	5.9850-6.1210

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

3i	351	Legal & Gn	1,700
ASDA Gp	15,700	Lloyds TSB	9,600
Abbey Ntl	1,800	LucasVarity	4,600
Allnce & Leic	2,900	Marks Spr	7,000
Allied Dom	2,200	NatWst Bk	5,700
AB Foods	564	Nat Grid	5,000
BAA	1,900	Nat Power	3,300
BAT Inds	10,000	Next	2,800
BG	4,500	Norwich Un	6,500
BOC	396	Orange	699
BP	7,000	P & O	669
BSkyB	2,800	Pearson	901
BTR	8,200	PowerGen	1,300
BT	9,000	Prudential	2,700
Bk of Scot	1,900	RMC	158
Barclays	3,500	Railtrack	974
Bass	1,800	Rank Group	3,000
Billiton	29,400	Reckitt Col	667
Blue Circle	2,400	Reed Intl	2,700
Boots	1,600	Rentokil	2,400
BAe	3,100	Reuters	8,100
BA	5,200	Rio Tinto	1,600
British Land	666	Rolls Royce	2,600
Brit Steel	8,400	Royal & Sun	9,400
Cable Wire	3,000	Royal Bk Sct	3,100
Cadbury	1,600	Safeway	11,600
Carlton Cms	2,700	Sainsbury	2,800
Centrica	27,700	Schroders	81
Cm Union	743	Scot & New	2,100
Dixons	1,800	Scot Power	4,400
EMI	1,800	Svrn Trent	1,900
Energy Gp	913	Shell Trans	12,200
Enterpr Oil	1,000	Siebe	2,200
GKN	620	SmKl Bch	7,700
GRE	7,700	Smiths Inds	670
GUS	657	Std Chard	3,400
Gen Acc	248	Sun Life	4,400
Gen Elec	9,700	TI Gp	1,700
Glaxo Well	3,900	Tesco	6,600
Granada	2,500	Thames W	1,200
Grand Met	13,200	Tomkins	2,200
Guinness	7,300	Unilever	3,900
HSBC	2,100	Utd Utilities	3,000
Halifax	4,300	Utd News	432
Hays	933	Vodafone	5,400
ICI	1,800	Whitbread	316
Kingfisher	1,200	Williams	4,100
LASMO	413	Wolseley	1,200
Ladbroke	3,400	Woolwich	2,900
Land Secs	1,500	Zeneca	1,700

WALL STREET

	Dec 9 midday	Dec 8 close
AMP Inc	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
AMR Corp	130[illegible]	131[illegible]
AT & T	58[illegible]	57[illegible]
Abbott Labs	68	67[illegible]
Advanced Micro	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Aetna Life	79[illegible]	79[illegible]
Ahmanson (HF)	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Air Prod & Chem	77[illegible]	77[illegible]
AirTouch Comm	41[illegible]	40[illegible]
Albertsons	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Alcan Aluminm	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Allied Signal	39	38[illegible]
Alum Co of Am	72[illegible]	70[illegible]
Amerada Hess	57[illegible]	54[illegible]
AEP	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Amer Express	87[illegible]	87[illegible]
Amer Genl Corp	54[illegible]	54[illegible]
Amer Home Pr	75[illegible]	74[illegible]
Amer Intl	105[illegible]	106[illegible]
Amer Stores	20[illegible]	20[illegible]
Amer Standard	40	39[illegible]
Ameritech	76[illegible]	76[illegible]
Amgen	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Amoco	86[illegible]	86[illegible]
Andrew Corp	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Anheuser-Busch	42[illegible]	42[illegible]
Apple Computer	15[illegible]	15[illegible]
Archer Daniels	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Armco	5[illegible]	5[illegible]
Armstrng Wrld	72[illegible]	72[illegible]
Asarco	24[illegible]	25
Atl Richfield	78[illegible]	78[illegible]
Atmel Corp	20[illegible]	21[illegible]
Auto Data Pro	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Avery Dennison	43[illegible]	42[illegible]
Avon Products	60[illegible]	60[illegible]
Baker Hughes	44[illegible]	45[illegible]
Baltim Gas & El	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Banc One	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
BankAmerica	81[illegible]	80[illegible]
Bank of NY	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Bankers Tr NY	131	130[illegible]
Barnett Banks	75[illegible]	73
Bausch & Lomb	40[illegible]	39[illegible]
Baxter Intl	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Bectn Dickrsn	52	51[illegible]
Bell Atlantic	89[illegible]	89[illegible]
BellSouth	55	54[illegible]
Black & Decker	39[illegible]	38[illegible]
Block (H&R)	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Boeing	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Boise Cascade	31[illegible]	31[illegible]
Boston Scien	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Bristol Myrs Sq	95[illegible]	94[illegible]
Browning Ferris	36	35[illegible]
Brunswick	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Burlington Nthn	95[illegible]	94[illegible]
CMS Energy Corp	39[illegible]	39
CPC Intl	104[illegible]	105
CSX	53[illegible]	53[illegible]
CBS Corp *	29[illegible]	29[illegible]
Campbell Soup	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Carolina Pwr	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
Case Corp	62[illegible]	63[illegible]
Caterpillar	50[illegible]	51[illegible]
Central & SW	25[illegible]	26[illegible]
Champion Intl	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Chase Manhat	117[illegible]	117[illegible]
Chevron Corp	78[illegible]	79[illegible]
Chrysler	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Chubb Corp	76[illegible]	75[illegible]
Cigna Corp	177[illegible]	177
Citicorp	140[illegible]	141[illegible]
Clorox	78[illegible]	78[illegible]
Coastal Corp	60[illegible]	59[illegible]
Coca Cola	67[illegible]	67[illegible]
Coca Cola Ent	32[illegible]	33[illegible]
Colgate-Palm	70[illegible]	71[illegible]
Columbia Gas	74[illegible]	74[illegible]
Columbia/HCA	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Compaq Comp	64[illegible]	65[illegible]
Comp Ass Int	54[illegible]	57[illegible]
Conagra	37	36[illegible]
Cons Edison	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
Cons Nat Gas	59[illegible]	60[illegible]
Cooper Inds	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Corestates	79[illegible]	79[illegible]
Corning Inc	42[illegible]	42[illegible]
C'wide Credit	41[illegible]	42[illegible]
Crestar Finl	56	56[illegible]
Crown Cork	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Dana Corp	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Dayton Hudson	71[illegible]	71[illegible]
Deere	58[illegible]	59
Delta Air Lines	118[illegible]	119[illegible]
Deluxe Corp	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Digital Equip	43[illegible]	44[illegible]
Dillard Dept St	36	35[illegible]
Disney (Walt)	95[illegible]	94[illegible]
Dominion Res	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Donnelley (RR)	35[illegible]	36
Dover Corp	69[illegible]	69[illegible]
Dow Chemical	100[illegible]	99[illegible]
Dow Jones	53[illegible]	54[illegible]
Dresser	42[illegible]	43[illegible]
Duke Power	53[illegible]	51[illegible]
Dun & Bradstreet	29[illegible]	29
Du Pont	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Eastman Chem	59[illegible]	59[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	58[illegible]	58[illegible]

	Dec 9 midday	Dec 8 close
Eaton Corp	94[illegible]	94[illegible]
Edison Int	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Elect Data Sys	40[illegible]	41[illegible]
Emerson Elec	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Engelhard Corp	19[illegible]	19
Enron Corp	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Entergy	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Ethyl Corp	8[illegible]	8[illegible]
Exxon	62[illegible]	63[illegible]
FMC Corp	72[illegible]	73[illegible]
FPL Group	55[illegible]	54[illegible]
Federal Express	68[illegible]	68[illegible]
Fifth Third Banc	78[illegible]	79[illegible]
Fleet Finl Grp	74[illegible]	74
Fluor Corp	34[illegible]	35[illegible]
Ford Motor	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Fort James	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Fortune Brands	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Franklin Res	98[illegible]	98[illegible]
GTE Corp	49	48[illegible]
Gannett	59[illegible]	59[illegible]
Gap Inc Del	56	55[illegible]
Gateway 2000	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Gen Dynamics	86[illegible]	87[illegible]
Gen Electric	74[illegible]	73[illegible]
Gen Mills	76[illegible]	76[illegible]
Gen Motors	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Gen Reinsurance	214[illegible]	211[illegible]
Gen Signal	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
Genuine Parts	31[illegible]	32[illegible]
Georgia Pac	86[illegible]	85[illegible]
Gillette	98[illegible]	97[illegible]
Glaxo Wellc ADR	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Goodrich (BF)	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Goodyear Tire	65[illegible]	66[illegible]
Great Lakes	44[illegible]	45[illegible]
Halliburton	56[illegible]	57[illegible]
Harcourt General	54	54[illegible]
Heinz (HJ)	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Hercules	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Hershey Foods	60[illegible]	60[illegible]
Hewlett Packard	66[illegible]	66[illegible]
Hilton Hotels	27[illegible]	29[illegible]
Home Depot	59[illegible]	59[illegible]
Homestake Mng	9[illegible]	9[illegible]
Honeywell	70[illegible]	69[illegible]
Household Intl	127[illegible]	127[illegible]
Houston Inds	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Humana	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
ITT Corp	77[illegible]	78[illegible]
Ikon Office	31[illegible]	30[illegible]
Illinois Tool	55[illegible]	54[illegible]
Illinova	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
INCO	18[illegible]	18[illegible]
Ingersoll Rand	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
Inland Steel	18[illegible]	18[illegible]
Intel Corp	78[illegible]	78[illegible]
IBM	112[illegible]	112[illegible]
Intl Flav & Fr	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Intl Paper	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	65[illegible]	65[illegible]
Kellogg	48[illegible]	49
Kerr-McGee	64[illegible]	65[illegible]
Kimberly-Clark	50[illegible]	49[illegible]
Kmart	12[illegible]	12[illegible]
Knight-Ridder	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Lilly (Eli)	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Limited Inc	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Lincoln Nat	76[illegible]	75[illegible]
Litton	57[illegible]	52[illegible]
Liz Claiborne	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Lockheed Martin	96[illegible]	96[illegible]
Louisiana Pac	20[illegible]	20[illegible]
MCI Comm	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Manpower Inc	33[illegible]	32[illegible]
Marriott Intl	73	72[illegible]
Marsh & McLnn	77[illegible]	77[illegible]
Masco Corp	50[illegible]	49[illegible]
May Dept St	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Maytag Corp	35[illegible]	35
McDonalds	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
McGraw Hill	69[illegible]	69[illegible]
Mead Corp	29[illegible]	29[illegible]
Meditrust Corp	37[illegible]	38[illegible]
Medtronic	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Mellon Bk	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Merck Inc	104[illegible]	104[illegible]
Mercury Fin	0[illegible]	0[illegible]
Merrill Lynch	77[illegible]	76[illegible]
Microsoft	144[illegible]	146[illegible]
Minnesota Mine	95[illegible]	96
Mirage Resorts	24	24[illegible]
Mobil Corp	73[illegible]	73[illegible]
Monsanto	44[illegible]	45
Morgan (JP)	123[illegible]	123[illegible]
Motorola Inc	62[illegible]	63[illegible]
Mylan Labs	21[illegible]	22
Natl Semi	29	30[illegible]
Natl Service Ind	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Navistar Int	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
NY Times A	61[illegible]	61[illegible]
Newmont Mng	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Nike B	46[illegible]	47[illegible]
NL Industries	15[illegible]	16
Nordstrom	60[illegible]	61[illegible]
Norfolk Sthn	31[illegible]	31[illegible]
Nthn State Pwr	54	54[illegible]
Norwest Corp	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
Occidental Pet	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Oracle	23[illegible]	[illegible]

	Dec 9 midday	Dec 8 close
Oryx Energy Co	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Owens Corning	36[illegible]	37[illegible]
PPG Industries	57[illegible]	57[illegible]
PMI Group	69[illegible]	68[illegible]
PNC Bank	57[illegible]	57[illegible]
PP&L Res	22[illegible]	23
Paccar Inc	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Pacificorp	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Pac Enterprises	35[illegible]	36[illegible]
Pall Corp	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Parker Hannifin	46[illegible]	47[illegible]
Peco Energy	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Penney (JC)	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Pennzoil	67	66[illegible]
Pepsico	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Pfizer	75[illegible]	74[illegible]
Pharm & Upjhn	36	35[illegible]
Phelps Dodge	66[illegible]	67
Philip Morris	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Phillips Pet	49[illegible]	50[illegible]
Pitney Bowes	87	87[illegible]
Polaroid	45[illegible]	46
Procter & Gmbl	80[illegible]	80[illegible]
Providian	44[illegible]	45
Pub Serv E & G	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Quaker Oats	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Ralston Purina	96[illegible]	96[illegible]
Raychem Corp	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Raytheon	56[illegible]	55[illegible]
Reebok Intl	34	34[illegible]
Reliastar Fin	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Reynolds Metals	62[illegible]	61[illegible]
Rockwell Intl	49[illegible]	50[illegible]
Rohm & Haas	92[illegible]	92[illegible]
Royal Dutch	54	54[illegible]
Rubbermaid	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
SBC Comms	72	72[illegible]
Safeco Corp	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
St Paul's Cos	83[illegible]	83[illegible]
Sara Lee Corp	52[illegible]	53[illegible]
Schering Plough	62[illegible]	61[illegible]
Schlumberger	86[illegible]	87[illegible]
Seagram	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Sears Roebuck	46[illegible]	47[illegible]
Shell Trans	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Sherwin Wllms	29[illegible]	29[illegible]
Silicon Graphics	14[illegible]	14[illegible]
Snap-On-Tools	45	45[illegible]
Southern Co	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Southtrust	59[illegible]	59[illegible]
Sprint Corp	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Stanley Works	46[illegible]	45[illegible]
Sun Company	42[illegible]	41[illegible]
Sun Microsys	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
Suntrust	74	74[illegible]
Supervalu	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Synovus Fin	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Sysco Corp	44[illegible]	43[illegible]
TRW Inc	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
TIG Hldgs	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Tandy Corp	43[illegible]	44[illegible]
Temple Inland	55[illegible]	54[illegible]
Tenet Healthcare	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Tenneco	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Texaco	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Texas Inst	46[illegible]	47[illegible]
Texas Utilities	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
Textron	64[illegible]	64
Thermo Elect	37[illegible]	38[illegible]
Time Warner	58[illegible]	57[illegible]
Times-Mirror A	58[illegible]	58[illegible]
Timken	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Torchmark	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
Toys R Us	33[illegible]	32[illegible]
Transamerica	114[illegible]	113[illegible]
Travelers	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Tribune	58[illegible]	58[illegible]
UST Inc	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
US Bancorp	115[illegible]	114
UAL	91[illegible]	[illegible]
Unitrin	64	64
US Inds	28[illegible]	29
US West Comm	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
US West Media	27[illegible]	28[illegible]
USAirways Group	67[illegible]	68[illegible]
USX Marathon	34[illegible]	35[illegible]
Unicom	29[illegible]	29[illegible]
Unilever NV	61[illegible]	61[illegible]
Union Camp	50[illegible]	[illegible]
Union Carbide	46[illegible]	47
Union Pacific	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
Unisys Corp	15	15[illegible]
USF&G Corp	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
United Tech	76[illegible]	77[illegible]
Unocal Corp	38[illegible]	39
VF Corp	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
Warner-Lambert	116[illegible]	115[illegible]
Waste Mngmnt	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Wells Fargo	333[illegible]	328[illegible]
Weyerhaeuser	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Whirlpool	56[illegible]	[illegible]
Whitman	25[illegible]	[illegible]
Winn-Dixie	41[illegible]	42[illegible]
Witco Corp	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Woolworth	22[illegible]	21[illegible]
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	81[illegible]	81[illegible]
Xerox	76[illegible]	77[illegible]
Xilinx Inc	37[illegible]	36[illegible]

هكذا من الآجل

High street retailers read the headline — and weep

It is never wise to take the pronouncements of industrial lobby groups at face value, whether they be those of the Confederation of British Industry or the British Retail Consortium. After all, it would not sit well with their members if they argued that manufacturing was coping well with the strength of the pound, or that consumers were showing few signs of interest rate fatigue. Nevertheless, the outright gloom from the BRC this week might just genuinely reflect the reality faced by many of Britain's retailers.

November was clearly a rotten month on the high street but it may or may not presage a bleak winter season. It is still quite possible that Christmas will lift off and leave egg on the faces of those retailers who are being panicked into December sales.

But what is important for economic policy is not the volume of sales but whether volumes are high enough to create inflationary pressures. The evidence suggests that, despite about £30 billion in windfall payments in the summer, there is precious little evidence of inflation coming from the high street. Yesterday's retail prices figures showed that consumer durables prices in November were actually 0.3 per cent down on a year ago. For all the talk of a revival in the housing market, household goods prices have risen by only 1.1 per cent.

In the context of the Chancellor's repeated expressions of concern about the next pay round, it is the headline rate, rather than the targeted underlying rate, which matters. One of the main culprits behind November's 3.7 per cent headline rate is housing, the perverse impact of higher mortgage rates as the Monetary Policy Committee has jacked up base rates. Other villains include tobacco, alcohol and petrol, all of which are subject to a continuing programme of duty increases. Foreign holidays are 8 per cent more expensive than a year ago and domestic holidays 4 per cent, testament to how many people have spent their windfalls on getting away.

Windfalls have repeatedly been invoked as the unwelcome guest at Britain's economic feast but there is little evidence that they have created broad pressure on prices. Holidays seem to be the exception rather than the rule. Part of the reason that prices have not generally been pushed higher is that windfall money has been spent on imported goods. Robert Fleming Securities, which commissioned a detailed survey of windfall spending in August, estimates that the implied import content of supply attached to the consumption of windfalls is close to 40 per cent, roughly double that for all consumer spending in a typical year.

Imports have, of course, been made much cheaper because of the strength of the pound. Most commentators now believe that the bulk of windfall spending has already happened. Therefore, it is probable that Britain has negotiated this considerable one-off phenomenon without paying an inflationary price. The coincidence of windfalls and a surging pound was lucky (for policymakers at least) but there is far more to the lack of price pressure on the high street than this.

The managing director of a company which acts as agent to importers of goods into Britain's high streets believes that November's awful showing had nothing to do with higher interest rates. He says that consumers boycotted the shops last month simply because they are waiting for retailers to panic into sales. The British consumer has become a master player of chicken with the retailer, and retail finances are ghastly as a result. Our MD says that he has £2 million of postdated cheques from British retail customers, panicked into early sales, ruining their margins in the process. Many are unable to pay for their stock until January and beyond.

To the extent that the MD's pile of cheques has got bigger each year, the squeeze on prices in the high street would appear to have become worse as the economic recovery has lengthened, hardly evidence of an inflationary consumer boom. On top of this, it seems clear that the economy is set to slow quite sharply. The impact of monetary tightening will continue to be felt well into next year and fiscal policy will be tight. Planned public spending is virtually flat and the burden of taxation will increase with rising council taxes and excise duties on tobacco and petrol and a further cut in mortgage tax relief.

The Treasury's prediction that inflation will rise next year is therefore very odd. The only viable theory to explain why the Chancellor is so much more pessimistic on this score than the Bank of England is that he wants to get the slowdown over with as soon as possible so that the upswing coincides with the next election. If one puts aside such an unworthy thought for a moment, it is possible that the Chancellor is genuinely worried about the spring wage round. Rather than hope that the Bank of England will continue raising rates, perhaps his next eye-catching reform should be the abolition of the headline rate of inflation. Forcing firms to concentrate on the underlying rate, only a smidgeon above target, would do wonders for his nerves.

Mzi poised to strike radical blow for JCI

Jason Nissé on a deal that could also reshape Lonrho's fortunes

Twelve years in prison is not the usual qualification for a captain of industry. But Mzi Khumalo's time on Robben Island sealed his friendship with Nelson Mandela and brought him to the forefront of the black empowerment movement within South African business.

However, the poor performance of JCI, the mining group he chairs, has cast a shadow over his career and the whole movement, which is being nicknamed "black impoverishment" in Johannesberg because cynics feel it was a way of selling overpriced assets to naive business leaders.

Now, after more than six months of courtship, Khumalo is close to consummating a deal that could transform not only JCI but one of the UK's most controversial and misunderstood companies, Lonrho. Originally it was going to be a full-scale merger but in spite of the strong advocacy of Terence Wilkinson, who runs Lonrho's South African mining operations, the deal was scuppered by a combination of Sir John Craven's cynicism about JCI's gold operations and concerns about Khumalo's lack of a track record. He was also concerned by the collapse of JCI's share price, which yesterday was less than half the 54.5 rand Khumalo and his backers paid to buy control.

Selling JCI's remaining gold assets to Brett Kebble, the JCI director who championed their purchase in the first place, has removed one obstacle to a deal that is gaining increasing importance to Khumalo. He recently boasted that "people who back me have made money". That is true at his financial services group Capital Alliance, which has doubled earnings and enjoyed a fourfold rise in its share price over the last couple of years. But his problem is that Lonrho says it will not pay a premium over JCI's net asset value, and even the most generous of South African mining analysts do not put the NAV above R35 a share.

If the deal succeeds, Sir John, who has since become convinced of Khumalo's pedigree through months of negotiations, wants to appoint the JCI chairman to the Lonrho board. Lonrho sources are keen to play down suggestions that Khumalo might succeed Sir John but anything less than deputy chairman would bring accusations of tokenism in South Africa.

By the time Khumalo comes on board Lonrho will be a South African mining company largely with a London quote. In the next few months Lonrho will conclude the sale of Princess hotels for at least £250 million. The Dutton-Forshaw motor dealer group — which includes Jack Barclay, Britain's leading seller of Rolls-Royces — is expected to be sold to a management buyout early next year, releasing about £100 million.

Then a demerger of the trading company is due around April, creating a group with interests in agriculture and motors that will be one of the few pure African investments traded on the London market.

It will be a business in better shape than most of South Africa's mining interest

Lonrho Mining will own 61 per cent of Duiker, which is due to buy JCI's coal business and 73 per cent of the platinum mining operations, and 38 per cent of Ashanti, the Ghanaian gold mine that is the world's cheapest gold producer. It will be able to buy in and cancel the 28 per cent stake that has passed from Tiny Rowland to Dieter Bock to Anglo-American and finally to JCI. Khumalo has talked about "turning this company around", but in truth it will be a business in a great better shape than most of the rest of the South African mining interest.

Consummating the purchase of JCI now looks like a win-win situation for Lonrho and Khumalo. By pinning its colours to the black empowerment movement, Lonrho will be able to keep the South African conglomerates Anglo-American and Gencor at arm's length and Khumalo will be able to take the credit for the success of a business he had little to do with creating.

Aerospace industry consolidation cleared for take-off in Europe

Adam Jones says Airbus could be a template for the future of the industry

The new Airbus A3XX is regarded as a fitting commercial flagship for the European aerospace industry

Airbus Industrie is particularly proud of its planned A3XX. The £5 billion project, if it gets built, will be the largest commercial aircraft in the world, with maximum capacity likely to be greater than 800 people on certain "sardine" routes, such as Japanese short-haul flights.

Visitors to the Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, France, are shown a seductive promotional video where passengers stroll along improbably long aisles, on their way to the bar or the gymnasium.

They loiter contentedly at the foot of a staircase, amid jugglers, kissing couples and an atmosphere of minimalist cool. It is the kind of aircraft for which even the sickbags have been designed by Sir Terence Conran or Phillipe Starck.

The preoccupation of Airbus with size and efficiency makes the A3XX, due to be in service in 2003, a fitting commercial flagship for the European aerospace industry.

If the A3XX is the future of jumbo jets, then the structure created by Airbus once it is transformed into a real company could well be a template for the future of the European defence and aerospace industries.

Yesterday's call by the Governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom for an acceleration to the consolidation in the industries had a simple underlying message.

They feel that growing bigger is not just an option for the European national champions — both in aerospace and defence electronics — it is the only option, given the size of the competitors being formed by alliances in the US, such as the merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, and the need for efficiencies of scale as post-Cold War defence budgets shrink further.

Although George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, has already told the United Kingdom companies to "rationalise or die", it was a significant to have it spelt out so clearly by the French and German Governments.

It softens the disappointment that was felt when France chose to position Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics groups which it part-owns, as the hub of a new French defence grouping, instead of opening the door to non-French companies such as GEC of the United Kingdom.

It also sends out a positive signal for the restructuring of Airbus Industrie into a single company, due to take place in 1999.

The success of Airbus to date has been in spite of its unwieldy structure. It is a consortium 37.9 per cent owned by Aérospatiale of France and Dasa of Germany — the original Airbus visionaries. British Aerospace holds 20 per cent, with Casa of Spain owning the remaining 4.2 per cent.

Because of the sensitivities of certain participants, it publishes no overall accounts, and analysts are forced to try to piece together composite information from the figures that the listed companies allow to escape.

There are widespread complaints that the structure hides the differing levels of efficiency among the partners, with British Aerospace's wing-making function seen as being particularly sleek and profitable. These inequalities make it difficult to decide who should own how much of the new company.

Once Airbus is restructured, the French, German and UK partners will be under pressure to add their integrated defence aerospace activities, making one European aerospace company. Germany and France have said that this is what they want. Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, was less forward at yesterday's press conference, saying that it is up to the industry to come up with its own decision.

Beckett: industry must come up with its own decision

One way by which a single European aerospace company could be built is making the Eurofighter consortium — comprising British Aerospace, Dasa, Casa and Alenia of Italy — into a single company in the same fashion as the Airbus restructuring. The partners' non-Eurofighter defence activities could be injected into the new company, added to Dassault of France, and the whole could then be merged with Airbus.

The biggest sticking points are likely to be the difficulty of making workers redundant in France and Germany, where unemployment levels are high.

One analyst said yesterday: "I'd like to be euphoric but I think there are lots of problems. There's a big gap between the wish and the reality." He pointed to an aerospace joint venture between TI, the UK engineer, and Snecma of France, where profit margins are still weaker than competitors. He blamed this on the difficulty of shedding French staff.

Dilution of its existing interests would damage French pride. On Monday, Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, indicated that France, which owns Aérospatiale, would want a stake of about 30-40 per cent in an enlarged Airbus company. At yesterday's press conference, Margaret Beckett declined to comment on how ownership might be split.

Yet the French will pay for this influence. The A3XX has an estimated development cost of £4.8 billion, a third of which may be provided by national governments. To cut the amount, the cash-strapped French Treasury will have to invest in the project, which is the subject of extensive consultation with airlines and airports and is likely to include investment from non-core companies such as Saab and Alenia.

Creating single entities might get round the sort of problems encountered by these infuriating consortiums such as when the Eurofighter found itself pitted against the Rafale, a French competitor, as well as the American F-22. But, in spite of the departure of Jean Pierson, the Airbus managing director, the operation has become so successful that it may be in the position to launch the A3XX without competition from Boeing.

For all its faults Airbus has shown that if all the Europeans sing the same tune they may be able to drown out the defence industry's loud American drawl.

Cheap votes

AN UNEXPECTED casualty of this week's elections in the City is Dennis Delderfield, and there will be few tears shed at Guildhall at his departure. Delderfield is an outspoken critic of the outmoded system of franchise there, and after two years as common councillor at the Ward of Farringdon Without he is now himself without. His defeat was a narrow one, 31 votes short at 219.

Delderfield has fallen foul of the powerful Smithfield market traders, after a disagreement with one of them. Of the successful 12 councillors at Farringdon, eight are either traders or their nominees. Under the City franchise it is perfectly possible to buy votes by acquiring a "tenancy at will", a sub-lease on a small patch of the Square Mile. This the traders have been doing, and in other wards too, I am told.

Another result was the ejection, after just one year, of Derek Davis from the Ward of Cheap. Again there is more at work here than local democracy. As I reported yesterday, five candidates competed for four seats at Cheap. The curious thing is that all five are identified with the same small City cabal, having their tenancies at the Midland's head office in Poultry. Joe Byllam-Barnes, a familiar figure in City circles and part of the old guard, has effectively carried out a putsch against his mate Davis by standing against him. It is a strange world and once it is all properly reformed, in a funny way I shall miss it.

"You can assbure the shareholdersh we're doing everyshing we can"

☐ *I RING Julian Metcalfe, who runs the excellent Prêt à Manger sandwich chain, to ask whether this is the best time to be rolling out his latest recipe, steak and chips. "Oh God. Oooh..." says Metcalfe, then pulls himself together. The meat is all Aberdeen Angus fillet sourced from one Scottish farm. "It's selling incredibly well."*

I am not surprised. Choice beef was as thin on the ground round my way at the weekend as Teletubbies dolls, and as fought over. Good luck to Prêt for giving people what they want rather than what the health police think we should be allowed.

Hot air

THE failure of Richard Branson's latest round-the-world balloon attempt has left them hanging on at Telephone Information Services, which was to have operated a phone line providing regular updates during the 15 day-plus trip. Until the balloon drifted off into the stratosphere. Roger Farrow, business development manager at TIS, learnt of the accident on the news but heard nothing from Marrakech. "Not a lot appears to have happened in terms of updating," he says lugubriously.

Offside

THIS must be the most unusual reason yet. Caspian, owner of Leeds United, is postponing figures until Tuesday. They were due this week, but "in the light of the tragic death of Billy Bremner, the announcement will be delayed as a mark of respect", the company said. "We thought it would play very badly in Leeds," said an insider.

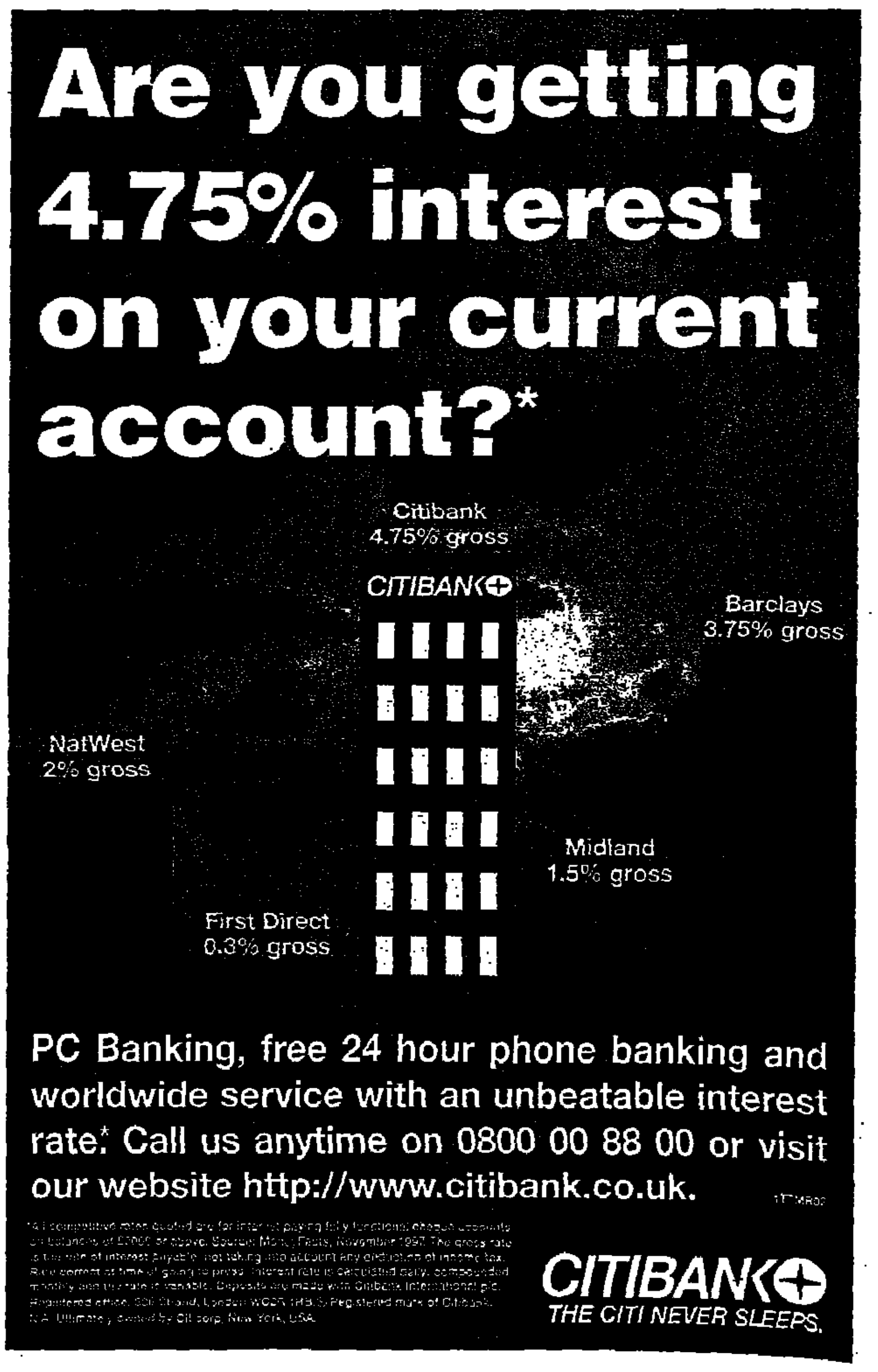
☐ *AS WE survey the unedifying gladiatorial contest between SBC and UBS to decide who keeps their jobs, a colleague reminds me of an old Monty Python sketch featuring two pantomime horses, one surplus to requirements. And a merchant banker. "In the grand traditions of British merchant banking, you will fight to the death," John Cleese tells the pantomime horses. And they do. Rather prescient, really.*

General buy

I SEE another BTR director is putting his money where his mouth is and buying the shares. Robert Bauman, and I never knew his middle name was Patten, has bought 300,000, a day after Ian Strachan, chief executive, bought 70,000. BTR shares yesterday were no more impressed by Bauman's gesture. They closed a penny lower.

MARTIN WALLER

Robert Bauman has put his money where his mouth is by buying BTR shares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The race for compliance

Nigel Powell analyses the bug and asks: what does compliance mean?

The millennium bug is the direct result of computer programmers trying to save their employers money. Back in the early days of computers, when systems were big enough to fill a room, programmers were under acute pressure to save space, because space was expensive.

All sorts of methods were used, and one of them involved cutting back date calculations in programs to just six numbers. Instead of a database program having to hold, for example, a full 21/07/1947, the program was written to understand 21/07/47. It may not seem like a big saving, but every bit counted when bytes cost thousands of dollars each, since each program (for example a pensions calculator) could contain millions of dates relating to millions of data records.

The practice caught on, and from that day to the recent past most computer programmers followed the same space-saving tradition, even when the cost constraints on space eased as computers became cheaper.

Now these very same saved bytes have come home to roost, and the result is potential chaos. On January 1, 2000 all of the old programs which have not been fixed will become completely confused, because to them the date will be 01/01/00, an impossible date to calculate.

Not only computer programs were penny pinched in this way either. Manufacturers of just about every product which contained a micro-processor chip also made use of the convention, and so we are now faced with the possibility of lifts, security systems, cars, planes, safes and even traffic lights failing on the fateful day.

The terror of the millennium bug lies in the fact that no one knows how widespread it is. Hence the race to fix the errant systems, to make them "compliant" with the year 2000. But what does "compliance" entail?

The British Standards Institution has produced what is probably the definitive statement of compliance. Committee BDD/1/-/3 has issued the following DISC PD 2000-1 Definition of Year 2000 Conformity Requirements.

"Year 2000 conformity shall mean that neither performance nor functionality is affected by dates prior to, during and after the Year 2000.

In particular:

Rule 1 — No value for current date will cause any interruption in operation.

Rule 2 — Date-based functionality must behave consistently for dates prior to, during and after Year 2000.

Rule 3 — In all interfaces and data storage, the century in any date must be specified either explicitly or by unambiguous algorithms or inferencing rules.

Rule 4 — Year 2000 must be recognised as a leap year."

'Lifts, cars, planes, safes and traffic lights may also fail'

The final rule offers another twist to the tale: some programs may not recognise the leap year. Indeed, several other risk scenarios involving dates and microchips have appeared under the millennium bug microscope.

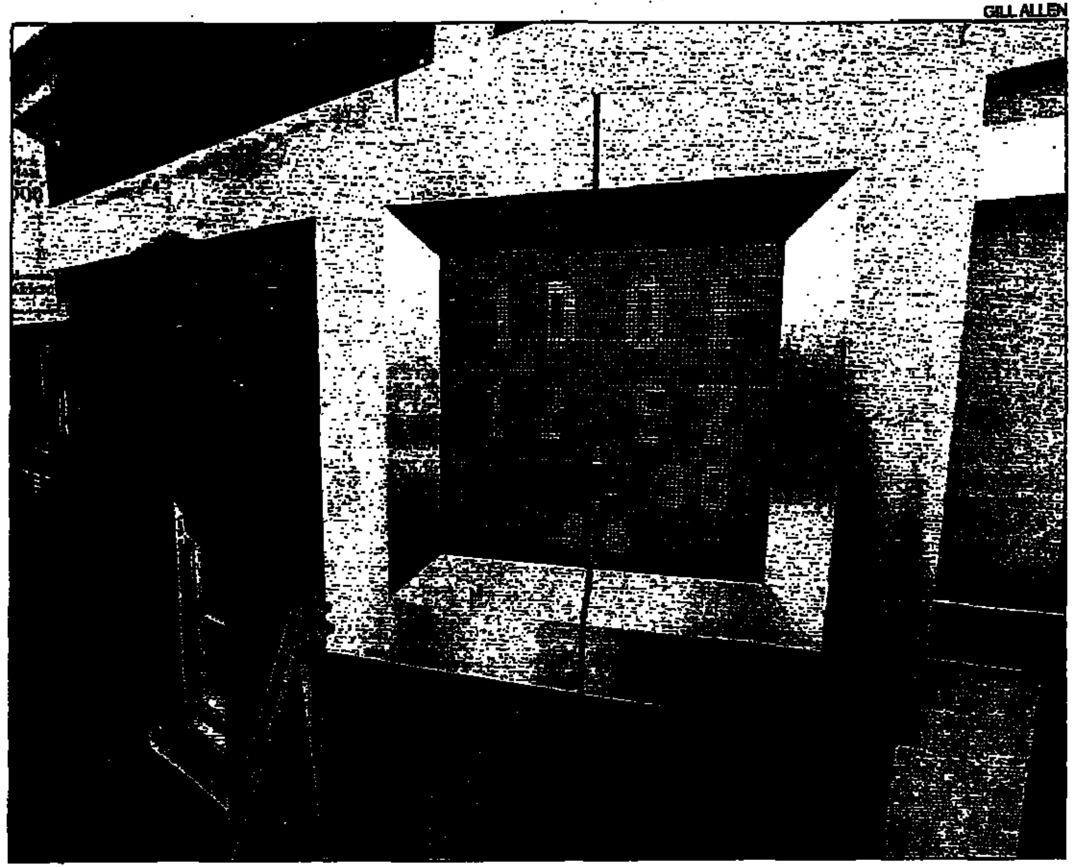
There is a widespread (though mostly unconfirmed) belief that some programmers have failed to build in safeguards for the date 9/9/99. Some computer software, in particular UNIX based programs, may fail on January 18, 2038 because of a limitation in the design of a widely used programming language function. And IBM-compatible PCs may revert to January 4 1980, the birthdate of DOS, as the millennium dawns.

- *The BSI-DISC (British Standards Institute): 0181 996 7000.*
- Two useful web sites:
http://www.weblaw.co.uk
http://www.year2000.com/.

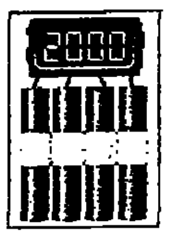
Countdown to a digital disaster

Tony Dawe introduces a four-page special report on the computer danger facing industry and Government

GILL ALLEN



Andrew Loftus, of Accurist, with the Greenwich digital clock, which will count down to the millennium, then switch to count the first thousand days. "And yes," he says, "it is millennium compliant"



THE task of tackling a numbers problem which affects computer systems must seem very simple to non-technical people in this highly scientific age. The fact that many systems which record the year with two digits might be confused when 99 is replaced by 00 at midnight on December 31, 1999, has tended, therefore, to be dismissed as a *curable hiccup by the majority* of the population, including leaders of industry and Government.

As the date moves nearer, however, the potential for crisis has become more apparent, sparking a wave of announcements by the Government and urgent board meetings in companies which have failed to plan for the so-called "millennium timebomb".

Many computer experts now believe that several aspects of our everyday lives, from making telephone calls to using credit cards, may be affected and that the consequences for Government and industry are alarming. Estimates vary hugely, but a conservative guess at the global cost of handling this problem is £400 billion. In Britain alone it is put at £30 billion.

"There is a general awareness of the problem now, but what causes anxiety is the increasing amount of data which shows that companies are not taking the action they need to remedy it," says Barbara Roche, the Trade and Industry Minister. "There is still time to overcome the problem, but they must act now."

The data continues to pour out of research departments. A report by the PA Consulting Group last week *found* that almost half of the 1,000 organisations surveyed worldwide do not yet have a formal millennium programme in place and only 55 per cent of senior managers are fully aware of the implications.

A study by Cap Gemini, the European computer services and consulting company, suggests that one in ten organisations will fail to meet the deadline for converting their systems to handle dates after December 1999. Many of them are large companies, and the effect of missing the deadline could put 29 per cent of gross domestic product at risk.

Alan Langlands, chief executive of the National Health Service, has described the problem as "the highest non-clinical priority" in the service.

The Government has been criticised by Robin Guenier, the head of Taskforce 2000, for failing to take the issue seriously enough, and *has* also been accused of being unprepared by Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman.

He has claimed that only three out of 16 departments are on course to sort out the problem and that little of the money committed to it has been spent.

Ministers have responded by saying that Tony Blair recently assured the Cabinet that Whitehall was ready to cope with the crisis and that £370 million has been earmarked for defusing the timebomb.

The crucial issue for executives — and government ministers — is to assess the scale of the problem affecting them, according to Don Cruickshank, the telecoms regulator who was recently appointed to chair Action 2000. "They must then decide how much money and talent will have to be redirected from research and development into solving the millennium problem," he says. "Some companies may see this as an opportunity to update equipment, instead of spending money on reprogramming."

'Missing the deadline could put 29 per cent of gross domestic product at risk'

This is the key decision for men and women in company boardrooms. Do they try to get by with patching their *systems* with the increasing number of "repair tools" coming onto the market or do they succumb to pressure from hardware and software houses to add value to the project by upgrading their systems?

Nicholas Birtles, president of Consteller, which has developed its own year 2000 compliant data management system, has no doubts. "Companies with the largest year 2000 problems are those which have many 'heritage' systems running on mainframe machines," he says. "These systems are a minefield of year 2000 bombs waiting to explode.

"Many organisations will find converting existing applications to support year 2000 is a great deal *more complex than they anticipated. There is, however, a much* simpler and more effective strategy: get off legacy systems as quickly as possible and stop pouring good money after bad."

Marc Swiecicki, Hewlett Packard's year 2000 manager for Europe, says: "Companies are *going to be incurring* a fair *amount* of cost without increased efficiency and incremental growth. But the year 2000 needs to be seen as an opportunity.

"For companies with legacy applications, this is the chance to adopt new applications that are not only going to be year 2000 compliant but add value to the business. The key message is that the longer they wait the more difficult it will be and fewer options will be available."

Paul Robertshaw of SAP, the software house which has developed the R/3 system to counter millennium "bugs" *and operate* into the new century, adds that replacing applications has several advantages. It will be more competitive and reliable, may be cheaper in the long term and easier for IT managers to sell to their directors because of the added value.

A detailed guide to the year 2000 by Bloor Research warns, however, of the risks of upgrading applications. "Many tools are being promoted on the basis that they will deliver some added value above and beyond helping to solve the year 2000 problem, but adding value must be treated with caution *and not be allowed to dilute the* objectives," concludes Andrew Hammett, the report's author.

"We believe that to burden a year 2000 project with these additional *unnecessary complexities* will significantly increase the risk of failing to deliver its primary objectives," says Mr Hammett.

The guide also provides advice for companies which have yet to tackle the millennium issue. It advises IT managers to begin by provoking awareness of the problem to obtain sufficient funds for an initial study. This should justify a budget for a thorough investigation. It also recommends appointing a central person or small team to gather and disseminate information to project teams in different departments.

"If you're just starting now and are a large organisation, you are almost certainly going to have to practice triage," says Ian Hugo, editor of *Millennium Watch*, in a foreword to the guide.

"That means placing a priority on fixing different applications according to their importance to the organisation and according also to what applications will fail *first*."

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No. of employees: 2,300

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Turnover:
£40 million
No. of employees: 60

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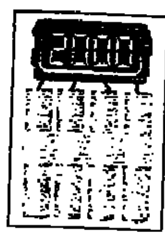
It's out with the old, and in with the new

Tony Dawe on one international firm that updated its entire network



CASE STUDY

WHEN Graham Eastwood joined GEC-Plessey Semiconductors three years ago he was faced with an IT manager's nightmare. The company, based in Swindon, had been formed from four chip makers, including Ferranti and Marconi, and operated four separate factories in England plus sales and design centres worldwide, all with different and incompatible computer systems.

As he investigated an integration programme, Mr Eastwood, the information systems executive, discovered his company was using more than 100 applications susceptible to the millennium bug, including sales, finance and planning programmes. Fixing the problem was almost impossible because most of the applications had been modified to GEC-Plessey's specifications.

"Our year 2000 problem was completely daunting," he says. "It soon became apparent that it would be a futile use of time, effort and money to patch the applications and of no value to the company. The sensible solution was to combine the two issues and put investment money into something which would benefit us beyond the year 2000."

GEC-Plessey chose the R/3 system from SAP (UK) to replace most of its existing systems in sales and distribution, materials management, finance, costing and production planning. It decided to introduce them all at the same time in a "big bang" approach as 650 of the company's 2,300 employees would be using the system. The cost was in "the low millions", according to Mr Eastwood, but selling the idea to his board was not as difficult as he had anticipated. The company has an annual turnover of around £200 million.

'We had to benefit beyond the year 2000'

"Our bid for the investment was based on the improvement it would bring in business productivity," Mr Eastwood says.

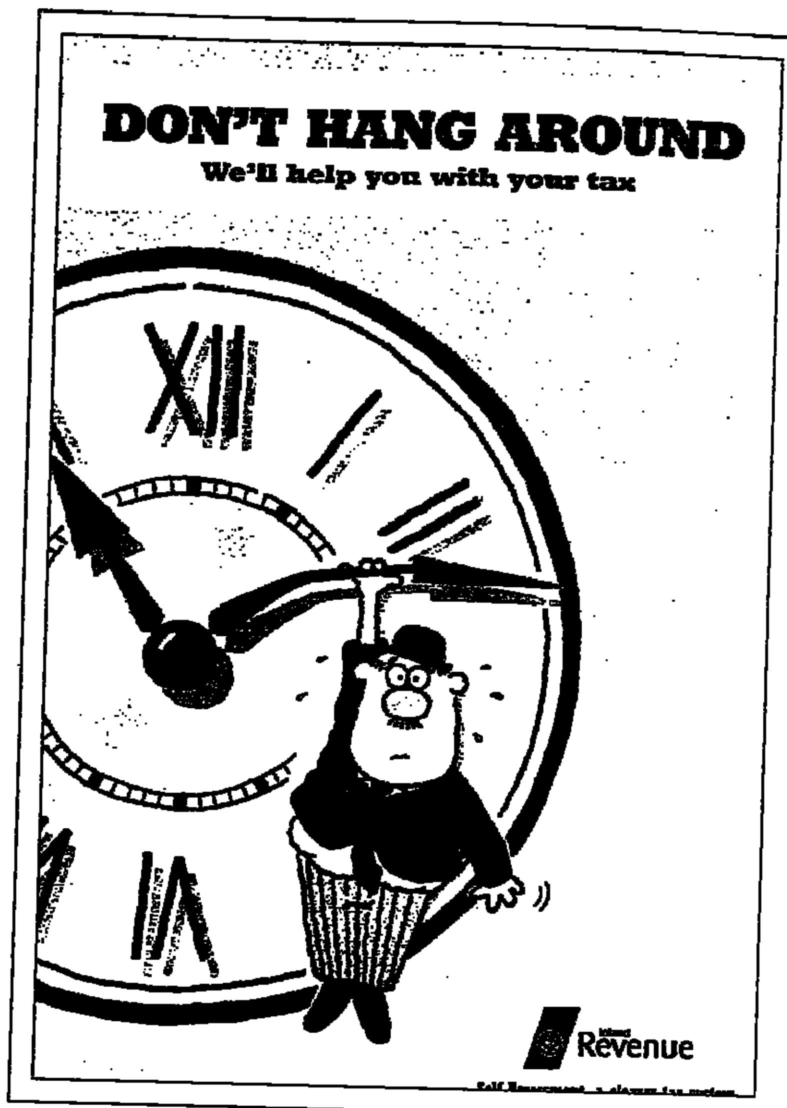
"We also advised that the year 2000 problem was a worrying issue: that the scope of the problem was not fully known, but that it would affect us. Even at that time, in 1995, it was relevant because both the finance and marketing departments were engaged in five-year projections."

GEC-Plessey then looked for the ideal platform on which to run the SAP system. The company operated individual mainframes and servers at each site, but chose an integrated system and plumped for Hewlett Packard, which meant a new partner and new technology for the company.

"The Hewlett Packard equipment has brought peace of mind and spared us from wrestling with computer problems when we should be concentrating on our main task of providing chips," Mr Eastwood adds.

The company went live with the SAP system on July 15 this year and Mr Eastwood is convinced that the decision was right.

Peter Robertshaw, SAP product manager, says: "This enormous project was unusual in that all elements of the IT infrastructure were replaced across the organisation at the same time. GEC-Plessey now has a brand new system in which it can be confident."



Tax code cracker

CASE STUDY

HECTOR the inspector (left) was busy this year prompting us to return our tax forms, but the Inland Revenue can't process them without computers, and so the millennium bug poses a huge challenge *(Nigel Powell writes)*. Mark Sudan, head of the Revenue's £26 million Year 2000 (Y2K) project, describes it as a mammoth undertaking. "But we are bang on track with our timings and costs," he says.

In July 1994 the Revenue awarded a ten-year outsourcing contract under which the EDS consultancy took responsibility for the compliance of all Revenue computing systems. The hardware includes ICL and IBM mainframes in data centres at Cumbernauld, Worthing and Shipley which service 44,000 users across the UK, as well as several UNIX systems and 45,000 PCs running Windows software.

EDS reported early last year on the scope of the project, Mr Sudan says. "So we were able to give senior management an idea of the scale of the problem. We got their approval fairly quickly, which was essential."

The last tests in the £26 million project are scheduled for the end of 1999. By then 30,000 man days of work involving some 900 staff will have gone into examining, fixing and testing 250 computer systems.

The team benefited by starting with a pilot project which highlighted problem areas. Mr Sudan's advice? Don't be side-tracked by the discovery of unrelated bugs in the code: log them and come back to them later.

Vulnerable companies face share markdown

Analysts are questioning stock values and the effect of the millennium, writes **Lindsay Nicolle**

SHARE prices could be in for some spectacular mood swings next year as forecasts persist that lack of year 2000 compliance could materially affect companies during the run-up to the millennium.

Many firms have been shy of putting a public figure on their vulnerability to the bug, but there are exceptions. Safeway estimates the cost of adjusting its computers at about £5 million over two years. The Royal Bank of Scotland expects to spend nearly £30 million on remodelling its software. NatWest Bank says the problem will cost about 3 per cent of its IT budget until 2000.

Some IT companies are dismissive. Rockwell, the American defence firm, said the bug is taking 25 to 30 per cent less time and money than it had expected. Bill Gates, of Microsoft, has called it "little more than a headache". But Reuters, the online information company, worried the City last month by refusing to put a figure on the cost of the problem.

The issue is beginning to affect takeovers. Last week a $650 million Dutch privatisation collapsed when Getronics, the IT company bidding for Roccade, the state computer services agency, said legal worries about the bug made it too risky to proceed.

In the UK analysts are starting to look for ways of measuring year 2000 compliance in company valuations. But there is as yet no recognised benchmark, chiefly because it is so difficult to assess a company's vulnerability where a complex supply chain is involved.

"One indicator is the seniority of the individual charged with managing the compliance process," says David Clayton, an IT stockbroking analyst at BZW. "But this is far from adequate."

In the US the Securities and Exchange Commission has addressed the problem by issuing guidelines clarifying those conditions where information concerning the year 2000 *must* be disclosed in documents it then retains. In Britain companies are obliged to declare anything in their accounts, which they think could materially affect their share price, but there is no compulsory requirement to mention year 2000 projects.

Murmurs can now be heard from auditors, who may start qualifying accounts by late 1998, as well as from investors. "We're very concerned about the state of preparedness of British industry," says Mike Young, assistant director of the British Bankers Association (BBA). "There hasn't yet been much comment from City analysts but we think that will happen next year. Businesses will increasingly find a whole range of people asking more pointed questions about their state of preparedness. Sensible companies should already be talking to analysts about what they're doing."

'Business will find a range of people asking more pointed questions'

The BBA will launch what it calls a national checklist early next year, to help firms to self-assess their year 2000 readiness in terms of their supply chain. Banks may use it as a yardstick for loans, especially to medium-sized companies. Jane Burns, ICL's year 2000 programme marketing manager, says: "It's got to affect share prices."

The Institutional Fund Manager's Association also expects share prices to move as professionals become more aware of the significance of year 2000 compliance. Julian Le Fanu, the deputy director general, says: "Pressure will be put on firms to explain themselves, given that there is an obligation among companies to make appropriate provision in their accounts for known liabilities. As that happens, those firms which look as if they will vaporise at the year 2000 will find their share prices affected."

- *The author is Editor of* Corporate Networks.

Jane Burns: shares

Mike Young: concerned

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Pitfalls of the IT bonus boom

EMPLOYERS are creating more problems in addition to the year 2000 systems issue by offering big bonuses to persuade computer staff to see them through the program conversion work.

This emerges from separate studies which show that the finance and retail sectors in particular are now desperate enough to offer bonuses of up to 100 per cent of salary — even though such schemes are found to create resentment among other staff.

More than a fifth of organisations questioned by MCG Consulting Group, a specialist in incentive schemes, are already offering bonuses to IT staff, and another third are considering such initiatives. Almost 15 per cent have introduced other schemes, such as extra holidays, share options, flexible hours, working from home and six-monthly reviews of pay.

More than 35 per cent of those with bonus schemes are offering to pay salary twice over, typically in the summer of 2000 to ensure that people see the job through.

Some companies are starting to pay bonuses immediately. Banks in the City are leading the way, largely because bonuses are common in other departments, and competition for staff is intense.

But employers in other fields are introducing such schemes with "considerable reluctance", according to MCG partner Derek Burn. "One problem is that not all organisations operate in a bonus culture," he says. "Introducing such a scheme is seen as a major change — and doing so for a single group of staff can be divisive."

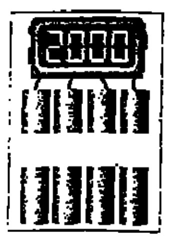
This view is endorsed by separate research by the Institute of Employment Studies. "Our work suggests that companies paying substantial bonuses could be wasting their money," says researcher Stephen Bevan. "They inflate pay. They cause resentment among others, who see that they are not considered vital enough or that they have not made enough fuss, compared with others."

Mr Bevan says bonuses should be used as a last resort — and that employers should look at other ways of keeping computer staff. "IT professionals are seen as a breed apart and immune to many traditional approaches," he says.

JOHN KAVANAGH

Programmers who know ancient computer languages are in demand, says **Tony Dawe**

Old campaigners answer the call



RETIRED computer programmers and those who have left work to bring up families are finding themselves with a price on their heads as computer companies and software houses struggle to recruit staff to tackle the millennium time bomb.

Technicians conversant with such ancient computer languages as Assembler and Cobol can expect rates of pay that would have been beyond their wildest dreams when they were first writing programs in these languages more than 20 years ago.

As well as trying to lure former staff off the golf course and away from coffee mornings, the industry is also trying to attract more graduates and to introduce specific training schemes.

The demand for staff to unravel millions of lines of code — and to work on replacement systems that many businesses may choose to adopt instead — will also mean big bonuses for technicians who promise to stay with companies badly affected by the "bug".

Chris Pearse, managing director of the National Computing Centre, an independent IT services group, says: "Languages sucyh as Cobol are not used now, but some systems are still operating on it with the codes messed by extra bits that have been tacked on."

Cobol (commercial or business-oriented language), was widely used in programs written in the Seventies and Eighties, but the oldest applications were developed using Assembler, a low-level language capable of addressing fields by many means.

The year 2000 problem will be particularly difficult to detect and fix automatically in Assembler applications, yet most mainframes still have some Assembler code to check, which may have to be done manually. The problem will also be difficult to trace in codes written in the PL/I language favoured on IBM mainframes.

Leading the campaign to recruit a "Dad's Army" of workers is ICL, the computer services company, which wants to create an "auxiliary workforce" to help its customers to iron out the millennium bug.The company is contacting 300 staff who retired at the ages of between 55 and 65, and the initial response suggests that half will be happy to take up the challenge. Some women who had left the company to bring up families have also agreed to rejoin ICL.

Maebh O'Connor and Lesley Foley of PKS are among those trying to solve the millennium problem

They can choose to work as many hours as they like and, provided they have their own personal computers, will receive "homework packages" containing a disk with the client's faulty data.

In America, Oregon state has launched a recruitment drive for a similar "Dad's Army" and is proposing a change in benefit and tax laws to encourage people to come back to work.

At the opposite end of the employment scale, the 2000 problem also spells good news for graduates. The IT industry was suffering from a skills shortage even before the demands of the date change issue became apparent, and is now eager to recruit students with degrees in non-scientific subjects.

Cap Gemini, the European computer services and consulting company, plans to increase the number of graduates it hires to more than 200 a year and is prepared to take those with degrees in history and geography as well as computer science.The company has established a training academy to turn students into fully fledged fee-earning employees and has also introduced one-year placement schemes for undergraduates. These provide a taste of real life at the company for undergraudates and, for its part, Cap Gemini treates the students like real employees and subjects them to formal performance reviews and objectives.

Irish graduates are also being targeted by PKS Systems Integration, a US company that has recently set up in Limerick. It is recruiting and training graduates as systems analysts to sort out faulty lines of customers' codes sent down a telephone line from PKS's Omaha headquarters and downloaded in Limerick.

The shortage of skilled people and the high fees commanded by those who are qualified are also encouraging software suppliers to find ways of producing their own people. SAP of the UK has set up an academy to train hundreds every year in the skills needed to implement the company's R/3 business system, which has been year 2000-compliant since 1992.

Petra Frenzel, the managing director of SAP, says: "We decided to make training a priority as we are only too aware that the success of our products depends on the quality of the people who put them in place.

"Last year we trained more than 400 people to implement R/3 and this year we aim to make it more than 1,000, a reflection of our commitment to helping business to overcome the hurdles of the next few years."

At zero hour

When the clock strikes the Nineties' last midnight, how could it affect your life?

A doomsday scenario has been created by some experts around the difficulties which the millennium date change could pose to the world's computers. Airliners could crash, weapons systems go haywire and consumerism collapse as credit cards and phone calls fail to function, *Tony Dawe writes.*

Leaders of threatened industries have dismissed the predicted disasters as hype by companies likely to benefit from fears about the 2000 bug. There may, however, be truth in some millennium myths.

This is what might happen on and around midnight on December 31, 1999:

● AIRLINES: Some air traffic control systems might close down and navigation equipment go berserk when the computers controlling them fail to cope when the year, registered in their microchips, moves from 99 to 00. Tim Goodyear, head of the International Air Transport Association's year 2000 project, who also works for KLM, has said that his airline will not operate certain services on January 1, 2000, unless suppliers have guaranteed that all equipment is year 2000 compliant.

● BANKING: Financial markets could be seriously disrupted and banks and finance houses are so concerned that Morgan Stanley, for example, is spending £45m on its "biggest ever IT project, involving 400 man-years of work". Merrill Lynch has committed £125m to creating a 100-strong team to find, examine and, if necessary, correct its 170 million lines of code.

All this expense and effort should save the City and Wall Street from collapse, but prudent investors might steer clear of major decisions for several days either side of January 1.

● CREDIT CARDS: The millennium could start disastrously for most of us if this staple of modern life fails. The good news is that Barclays Bank has started issuing cards with 00 expiry dates and, for the most part, they have worked. Problems have occurred with a few retailers whose tills have not been modified. But American Express is delaying the issue of cards for 2000 until the vast majority of outlets in Europe and the rest of the world can cope.

● DEFENCE: Whitehall and the Pentagon have expressed fears about the ability of weapons and monitoring systems to absorb the date change, but the British and US governments are spending a small fortune in trying to ensure the world's safety.

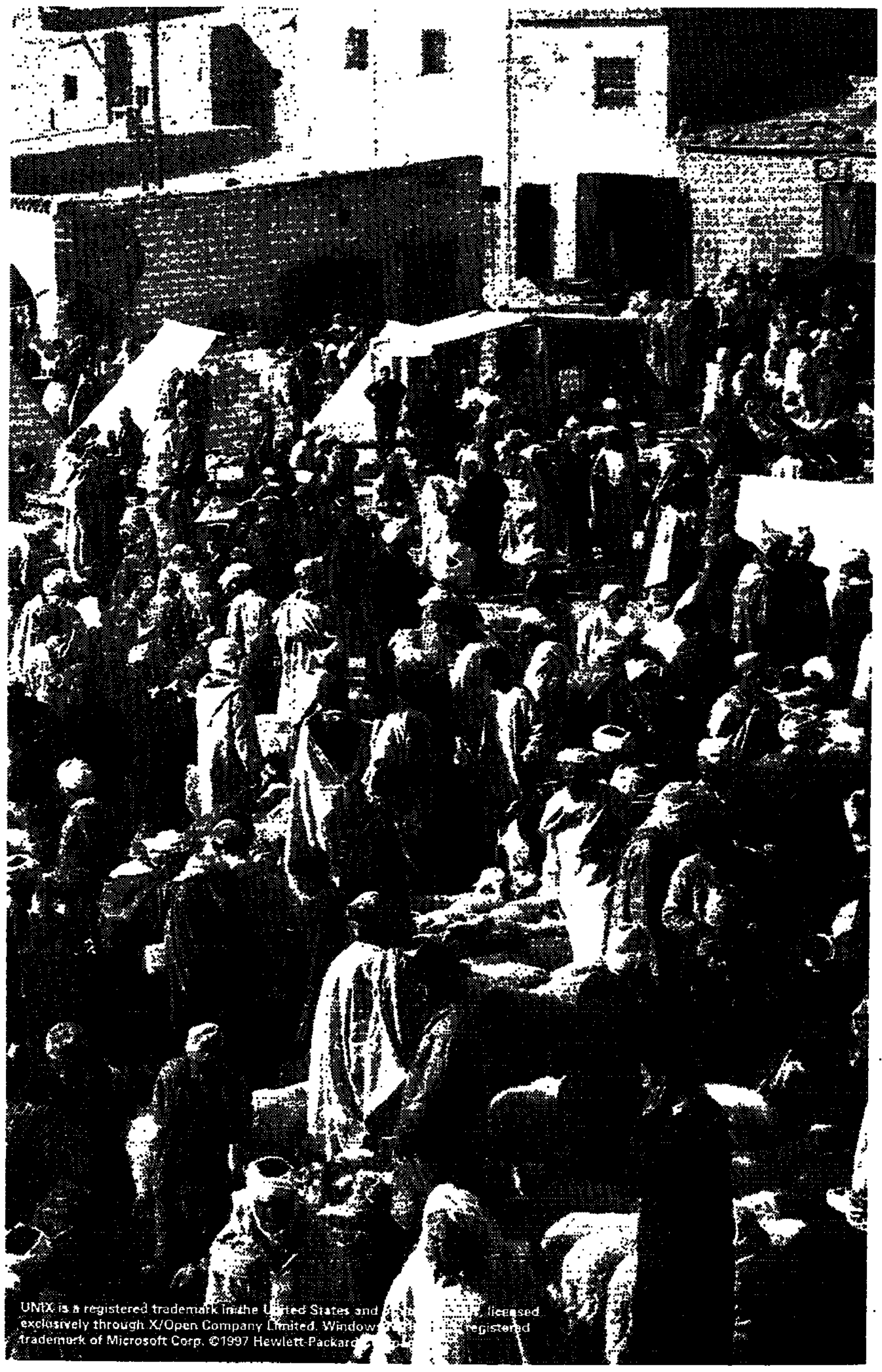
● HEALTH: Computerised medical equipment from heart pumps to monitors could be affected; air conditioning in operating theatres could cease: lifts essential for moving incapacitated patients could stop and administrative systems, including those used to recall patients for checks and waiting lists, could collapse.

A programme for tackling the crisis in the NHS has finally been established, but doubts remain about whether the cash-strapped service will be able to cope and whether GP practices will be aware that some of their equipment could be vulnerable.

● SAFETY AT WORK: The Health and Safety Executive has warned that the millennium time bomb poses a significant threat to safety. Industrial robots could march out of control and machine guards fail to operate. Most large companies are tackling the issue, but small and medium-sized companies may lack the in-house expertise to deal with the problem.

● TELEPHONES: International calls are most at risk. BT, for example, has 10,000 embedded systems worldwide, hundreds on the seabed in routing boxes between cables, and there is no physical way of checking them. Some will work and others not, with the worst failures expected on calls routed through Third World countries which may be behind in their 2000 checks.

> There may be truth in some of the myths about the year 2000



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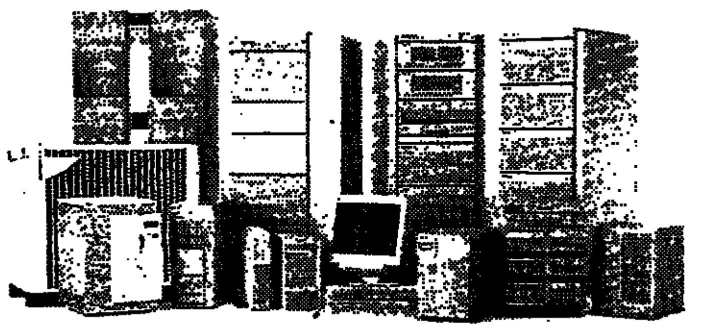

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PA

Aiming for a signal success: "If just one or two systems fail, the stations will close"

Howdy pardner, goodbye bugs

London Underground and ICL have been tackling the millennial challenge in tandem. By **Tony Dawe**

CASE STUDY

ONE of London's most vital businesses, which could bring the capital to a halt if it failed, has found tackling the millennium problem cheaper than it feared.

Despite a vast inventory of signalling, information and ticketing systems and hundreds of escalators and water pumps, London Underground has needed to invest £2 million, so far, to eradicate the bug.

"By comparison with our ongoing IT spend of around £500 million, it is not very significant," says John Horan, the Underground's year 2000 project manager. "The figure is lower than expected even though we found more systems at risk than we anticipated. We are working on 30 of the most crucial, and I am confident that we will beat our own deadline of completion by December next year."

The company decided to follow the partnership path in tackling the 2000 problem with the intention of patching systems as necessary rather than introducing wholesale replacement. It teamed up with ICL, the European IT systems and services company, to produce a protocol document that would mandate how the problem should be approached by all departments.

"We already had ICL supporting our systems," Mr Horan says. "We shared many of the same problems — building management systems, computer rooms, distributed systems and networks.

"Our IT is very devolved, with much of the processing taking place locally. We don't have the central mainframe dependency you would expect with an organisation of this size, although there are legacy systems from the Seventies. So the problem wasn't so much tackling huge, elderly applications; rather, it was the sheer number and variety of systems that had to be located, assessed and, if necessary, rectified."

The initial investigation into business systems revealed that LU had 127 applications that were business critical. In signalling and train information systems alone, there were 33 applications. More than 80 per cent of all systems needed work to prepare them for the new millennium. Some 25 key applications have already been updated.

As well as playing a big part in the investigation, ICL's team also helped LU to overcome the difficulty of persuading suppliers to talk about the problem, help to identify components at risk and work jointly to find a solution.

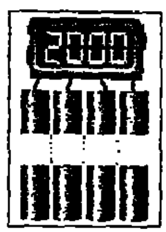
The Underground has now moved on to operational and safety systems and buildings and stations, using two separate approaches. The first identifies components, such as automatic ticket machines, signals and closed circuit television to see how they could be affected.

The second takes a systems view over entire stations. "If just one or two systems fail, the stations will close," says Mr Horan. "For instance, if the CCTV goes down, the driver may not be able to see if everyone is on the train."

He adds: "The investigations have been very successful and we are very pleased with the work ICL has done. But the 2000 challenge should not be seen simply as a problem. It is a great oppportunity to move forward. This focus has given us the chance to rationalise the systems we use. We have been able to spot duplications and to do some pipe cleaning."

Happy new year, call your lawyer

Where there's a contract, you'll find a loophole. **Edward Fennell** looks at the legal implications of meltdown



IT MAY be the greatest party in history but there will still be plenty of lawyers working late, ready to hear that your system has crashed. Law firms specialising in information technology are already checking that their clients' systems are "millennium compliant".

The most important case so far with millennium significance is St Albans vs ICL. This suggested that, in the absence of any express reference to "quality" or "fitness for purpose", a contract for the supply of a software program was bound to imply that the program would be reasonably fit for its intended purpose. In other words, without some kind of get-out clause, software suppliers are implicitly responsible for their products coping with the date change.

In other words, suppliers of defective software will be liable ... or will they? Go back far enough and you discover that, in order to save disk space, some contracts actually specified that year dates would be only double digit (for example, 1997 would only be recognised as 97). Such a system could not possibly have taken account of 2000.

That is why, as Clive Seddon, a partner with Masons, emphasises, every contract must be looked at individually. The absence, until recently, of any standard terms relating to the millennium means that what appears in any particular agreement is almost a question of luck.

Even if the contract does not look favourable, there are plenty of other defences suppliers could potentially summon. There is a "limitation defence" relating to when the equipment was supplied and "a state-of-the-art defence" (although many lawyers doubt whether this would carry much weight). Alternatively, suppliers could turn the tables on clients and say it was their fault for not having forestalled a predictable problem. They could even pass the buck to sub-contractors who supplied the system. And, if the worst happens, they may try to palm the matter on to their insurers.

Of course one of the most acute problems is that, no matter how compliant your system may be, there is no guarantee that the same can be said of the systems with which you may be networked. Like collapsing dominoes, your system may crash because of some non-compliant system beyond your control. That is why the industry is awash with questionnaires, drawn up or checked by lawyers, which aim to establish just how safe your partners' systems are. The first aim, as Olswangs lawyer Victor Timon points out, is to gain information. But the secondary purpose is to gain legal ammunition in case things go wrong.

That said, some lawyers are advising contractor clients to be very careful about completing questionnaires. "If the operator sends you a one," says Seddon, "it is better to meet their representatives to talk rather than give written assurances. Contractors should avoid giving year 2000 conformance warranties. If you have to, ensure their scope is strictly limited."

> No one quite knows when the bomb might go off

In a soft market, some insurers are issuing millennium policies — but only where they are confident that no claim will follow. This usually means an expensive safety check for the client.

For some organisations, however, compensation after the event is not good enough. Computer failure could put them out of business. This means contracts for "business continuity" companies such as Adam Associates, which is buying computers at the moment. It guarantees its clients a fresh set of PCs within four to eight hours if their existing system fails.

In America, at least, the bug will make some lawyers rich. Last week *Computer Weekly* revealed that PC makers are facing a $5 billion (£3 billion) claim from a Californian law firm. In the US, unlike Britain, a law firm can bring an action itself, taking up to a third of the award if it wins. If the case succeeds, the bulk of the award would be held in a trust for the estimated five million computer owners affected in California. Both IBM and Dixons, the UK electronics retailer, refused to comment on the implications.

A London-based law firm has joined forces with a systems company to identify problems

Doubling up for added effect

CHRIS ROBERTS *considers himself the luckiest of information technology directors. Unlike so many who have encountered difficulty in persuading board members that the millennium bug is a serious problem that needs tackling now, Roberts has the managing director of Simmons & Simmons, the international law firm for which he works, as the sponsor of his year 2000 project, Tony Dawe writes.*

The IT committee on which he serves also contains senior partners of the London-based firm. "I am in an ideal situation with senior people in the firm sponsoring the project and pushing me," he says. "With the information we have gathered, it has been reasonably easy to obtain the £100,000 we have spent on the project so far and to get the budget correct for the next financial year."

Simmons & Simmons' approach to the problem has been to enter into partnership with SHL Systemhouse to identify the issues to be tackled and to overcome them without having to replace existing computer systems.

"The decision to work with SHL was taken early on because the company was already working on a project to assimilate our systems," says Roberts. "Finding the right partner is one of the

CASE STUDY

most important elements of a year 2000 project because you are not going to find all the answers on your own, however hard you try."

SHL started by carrying out an audit of hardware and software in the law firm's ten international offices and has so far identified 1,200 personal computers and 22,000 items of hardware linked to ten servers. Within this environment, the audit found 22 major classes of software in use and more than 17,000 licensed applications.

The next stage was to determine the year 2000 compliancy of these items, which was done by contacting manufacturers for a compliancy statement and checking their Internet pages for compliancy information.

The audit found that operating systems, network operating systems and server backup software all had potential problems with the century date change and that the major office software package with 1,000 licences and other common applications all required upgrades to cope with the millennium bug.

"Most of the applications can be upgraded and fixed and we are fortunate to have no legacy systems," says Roberts. "Upgrades to existing software can be carried out as part of normal maintenance although some additional work is required but, with SHL, we have the manpower and funds to put all these changes into place during the coming year. Where upgrades cannot be achieved, alternative solutions are being investigated."

"The most important message to come across from this project is that good information is required to make informed decisions," adds James McDougal, SHL's project manager. "It is vital to understand the scale of the problem and to plan the work in a structured manner across all areas of the business."

Getting ready for that big date

DO ...

- Take a complete inventory of all computer and security systems, telephone equipment, vault door locks and anything that may be controlled electronically using date information.
- Think about electronic data exchanges with customers and suppliers.
- Address the problem in small, manageable, prioritised chunks.
- Consider the longer term when selecting year 2000 software tools; many of them may have a future use.
- Plan to complete the project by the end of 1998, so that software will be running live for 12 months before 2000 arrives.

DON'T ...

- Underestimate the size of the problem which may exist outside the environment controlled by IT.
- Spend too much time examining the options, choosing partners or evaluating software; get the job done now.
- Believe solutions are going to get cheaper.
- Think you can outsource the whole problem.
- Assume all your IT suppliers are taking the problem as seriously as you; check they will be ready as well.

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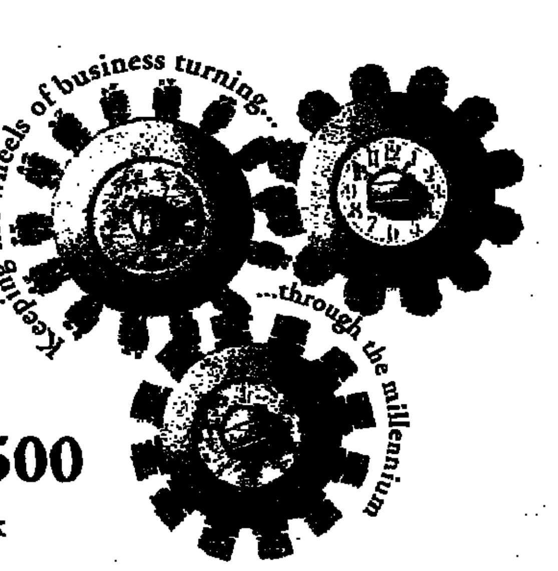
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0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	142.08	151.40	- 0.02	...
Do NAV to Dec 19	136.83	136.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	110.89	118.49	- 0.10	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		
Cash	955.27	960.05		5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	374.59	398.20	- 1.40	1.72
UK Small Cos	77.97	83.38†	- 1.60	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	98.79	105.65	+ 0.20	2.11
General UK Index	2353.37	2484.38	- 14.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	81.10	83.78	+ 0.13	
Monthly Inc	42.09	44.97†		8.52
International Funds				
American Gen	297.70	315.10†	+ 1.80	
American Strat	252.38	269.91	+ 2.40	..
JG US Index	2355.60	2482.18		4.00
European Gen	331.10	350.20	+ 1.50	
European Strat	142.21	157.09	+ 0.60	
Japan Gen	106.30	112.50†	+ 2.70	
Asia Pacific	70.90	75.60†	- 0.24	
Pacific Strat	115.98	124.03	- 0.10	
Greater China	230.07	235.36	- 0.40	
Latin America	110.43	118.04	+ 0.60	
Int Growth	170.41	182.24	+ 1.60	
Balanced Exempt	151.38	156.80		
Global Strategy	48.67	52.04	+ 0.24	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	848.10	902.20	- 2.90	2.52
General Inc	691.70	735.30	- 2.30	2.52
UK Growth Acc	586.70	624.10	- 1.90	2.49
UK Growth Inc	370.90	394.50	- 1.10	2.49
Higher Inc Acc #	1074.00	1142.08	- 4.00	4.78
Higher Inc Inc #	551.50	586.70	- 2.20	4.78
Gilts Fxd Int Acc	230.50	241.40	+ 0.80	5.66
Gilts Fxd Int Inc	95.99	101.40	+ 0.40	5.66
Nth America	435.30	463.00	+ 2.80	
Europe	448.80	477.40	+ 2.80	0.59
Brit Excell	118.60	124.00	- 0.20	2.25
Brit Frdmds Acc	146.00	155.30	- 0.50	4.48
Brit Frdmds Inc	93.71	99.69	- 0.29	4.48
Global Opps	111.70	118.20	+ 0.90	0.30
Balanced Acc	73.47	78.15	+ 0.09	2.36
Balanced Inc	67.21	71.50	+ 0.08	2.36
Japan Acc	34.48	36.68	+ 1.10	
Pac Basin Acc	300.50	319.60	- 1.60	2.09
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	140.90	149.50†	+ 0.20	5.98
High Inc Equity	222.50	238.00	- 0.40	4.34
Worldwide Bond	269.70	285.50†	+ 1.00	3.51
American Growth	530.20	565.70	+ 1.30	0.30
Asian Pacific	238.50	255.10	- 1.40	0.44
Assets & Earnings	342.70	366.50†	- 0.70	2.77
Euro Capital Acc	243.40	260.30	+ 2.20	0.77
Extra Inc	42.61	45.33†	- 0.06	9.18
General	317.30	337.50	- 0.40	2.91
Global Opps	76.68	81.57	+ 0.36	0.39
Japan	75.48	80.73	+ 1.81	
Managed Inc	52.09	55.41†	+ 0.03	4.06
Mastertrust	185.10	198.00	+ 0.40	1.12
US Emerging Cos	218.90	234.10	- 2.10	
Ethical	90.44	96.21	+ 0.14	1.90
International	140.80	149.80		0.58
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Fixed Int Acc	265.53	266.59		..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	95.70	100.66		6.14
Beck Bio-Tech	39.30	42.38†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	212.68	226.28†		0.55
City Fin Assets	87.75	92.15		2.88
City Fin Intl	85.77	90.71†		0.06
Friars Hse Cap	367.68	391.15		1.60
Barclay Wrld Gth	138.94	147.28		
Shaw Utilities	80.92	85.52†	- 0.68	3.51
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	49.91	52.95	- 1.84	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 253				
American Gwth	100.97	107.42	+ 0.88	
Dragon Growth	50.13	53.61	- 0.75	1.32
Equity High Inc	115.01	121.79†	+ 0.17	3.07
-do- Accum	173.60	183.70	+ 0.27	3.07
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Extra Income Acc	33.32	35.06	+ 0.03	6.23
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Balanced Funds				
High Yield	164.26	171.12	+ 0.62	5.50
Managed Fund	82.49	88.06	+ 0.17	2.38
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.67	53.83	- 0.09	1.59
-do- Accum	61.79	64.37	- 0.12	1.59
UK & General	123.53	128.69	- 0.24	2.11
-do- Accum	165.54	172.46	- 0.32	2.11
UK Growth	246.12	256.40	- 0.59	1.55
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	268.27	279.48	+ 1.73	0.48
Far Eastern Gth	99.92	104.15	+ 0.23	0.27
Global Bond	71.85	74.85	+ 0.35	5.12
Japan Growth	88.16	91.84	+ 2.84	
North Amer Gth	312.99	326.07	+ 0.98	
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Worldwide Growth	91.50	94.90	- 0.34	0.57
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
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-do- Accum @	1565.00	1565.00	- 4.00	1.98
Equity Income #	123.60	123.60	- 0.90	4.42
UK Tactical Allocn @	85.03	85.03†	- 0.36	5.05
European @	181.10	181.10	+ 0.80	0.22
Far Eastern @	165.90	165.90	- 0.80	.
Fixed Interest @	58.20	58.20†	+ 0.18	7.39
Gilt @	97.73	97.73†	+ 0.31	6.01
Global Growth @	63.86	63.86	+ 0.47	0.18
Intl Bond @	48.84	48.84	+ 0.27	5.00

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British Blue Chip	122.60	129.90	- 0.70	2.54
-do- Accum	162.60	172.50	- 0.70	2.54
Cash	100.80	100.80	.	6.85
-do- Accum *	156.70	156.70	.	6.85
Emerging Mkts	134.40	144.50	+0.900	0.21
-do- Accum	136.30	146.80	+1.000	0.21
European Growth	408.50	432.20	+2.400	0.12
-do- Accum	445.90	471.80	+2.700	0.12
European Income	102.00	107.90	+0.500	3.78
-do- Accum	153.70	162.60	+0.800	3.78
General	714.20	758.80	+0.500	2.12
-do- Accum	1490.80	1583.00	+1.000	2.12
Global Bond	126.30	132.70	+0.600	4.81

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Pacific Growth @	84.33	84.33	- 1.00	0.82
Pacific Index @	34.28	34.28†	- 0.48	2.92
UK Index @	96.55	96.55†	- 0.25	2.52
UK Recovery @	138.20	138.20†	..	1.50
UK Smaller Cos @	180.40	180.40	+ 0.20	1.09
US Index @	115.10	115.10†	+ 0.40	0.78
European Index @	115.50	115.50	+ 0.50	1.09
Japan Index @	26.46	26.46	- 0.06	...
Worldwide @	112.10	112.10†	+ 0.10	1.03
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01452 3[illegible] Dealing: 01452 371 623				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	175.60	184.50	+0.800	4.81
Gold & General	105.20	112.00	+0.300	0.64
-do- Accum.	108.80	116.50	+0.400	0.64
Gvd Securities	98.04	102.10†	+0.200	5.34
-do- Accum	223.20	239.10†	+0.600	5.34
High Yield Fd	107.80	110.50†	+0.100	9.09
-do- Accum	122.50	125.40†	+0.100	9.09
Income	237.00	251.60†	- 0.60	3.58
-do- Accum	409.50	434.80†	- 1.00	3.58
Inc Portfolio #	129.30	136.90	- 0.30	4.77
-do- Accum #	147.20	155.90	- 0.30	4.77
Intl Opps	639.70	670.60†	+1.700	0.74
-do- Accum	866.90	914.00†	+2.300	0.74
Japan	140.40	149.70	+4.100	
-do- Accum	144.10	153.70	+4.300	

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هكذا من الأصل

Modest losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
584	407½	Allied Domecq†	541½	- 10½	4.5	13.9
626	395	Bulmer (HP)	407½	- 6	4.6	11.4
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	46½	..	8.1	18.2
1040	866	Glenmorangie A	950	..	1.8	22.8
638	425½	Grand Met	581	- 1	3.2	18.6
639½	424	Guinness	580	- 5	3.3	16.0
380	280	Highland Distl	307½	..	3.8	14.2
336	183	Matthew Clark	183½	- 46½	14.0	5.8
109½	49½	[illegible]	83½	- 2	6.1	...
2009½	1445½	SA Breweries†	1487½	+ 9½	2.5	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1243½	- 9½	2.5	17.9
1050	710	Abbey Ntl	1017	- 4½	3.4	16.5
793	532½	Alliance & Leic	785	+ 16½	2.6	18.4
608	388½	Allied Irish	600	+ 9½	2.9	17.2
516½	363½	Aus New Z	433½	- 5	4.7	
4953½	2875	Bank America†	4853½	+ 37½		
595	281½	Bank Scotland	570	- 2	1.9	18.8
1800	978½	Barclays	1639	+ 66	2.6	15.6
914	517½	Bk of Ireland	914	+ 26	2.3	20.0
8959½	6008½	Citicorp	8559½	+ 43½		
1759½	1268½	Commerzbk	1643½	- 3½	1.8	...
862½	403½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	459½	+ 16½	0.9	...
4593½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	4216½	+ 206½	1.4	
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1184½		3.1	...
947½	249	First Bank Y	915½	+ 17½	1.3	61.0
2369½	1272½	HSBC	1703	- 34	3.4	13.8
2258½	1326	HSBC HK	1630	+ 10	3.5	13.2
783	507	Halifax	735½	- 3	2.5	24.8
645	483½	Irish Perm	643		2.4	17.8
860½	424	Lloyds TSB	770½	- 15	2.3	22.4
1008	658½	Nat Aust Bk	838½	- 10½	4.7	
1028	663½	Nat West	1016	+ 18	3.7	18.0
521½	449	Northern Rock	521½	+ 3	2.2	20.6
790	508	Ryl Bk Scotl	777	+ 9½	3.4	15.2
1093½	592½	Stand Chart	780	- 10	2.5	13.3
£184½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
409½	375½	Westpac	382½	- 3½	3.8	...
373½	267½	Woolwich	315	- 2	2.1	18.7

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
929	695	Bass	907½	- 2½	3.9	18.0
68½	43½	Bo for the Sdr	54		4.2	31.4
205	132½	Burtonwd Brw	153½	..	5.8	13.3
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	132		2.4	20.5
744½	575½	Compass Gp	720½	+ 4½	1.7	24.8
305	250	Eldridge P 'A'	290		2.7	..
266½	221	Enterprise Inns†	244	- 1	3.8	
485	412	Fuller Sm 'A'	430	+ 2½	3.1	13.7
586	310	Greenalls Grp	418	- 13½	4.7	10.4
770	610	Greene King	697½	+ 10	3.1	14.2
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	199		4.0	20.7
293½	218½	Groupe Chez Gerl	281½		1.4	22.7
298½	213½	Hardy Hanson	221½	+ 2½	6.2	9.8
2650	2150	Holt J	2162½		3.5	12.1
78	57½	Inn Business	58½		3.5	9.3
357	293	Mansfield	297½		3.0	12.3
315½	252	Mirston Thmp	268	- 2	3.9	9.4
615	473½	Morland	475	- 5	3.4	12.2
265½	210	Old Eng Pub	261	- 5½	1.1	20.6
47½	18½	Paramount	20			
653	527½	PizzaExpress	624	+ 7½	0.5	42.8
437½	310	Ransdens (H)	340	..	1.8	30.1
378½	262½	Regent Inns	332½		1.2	28.8
130	102½	SFI	121	+ 1½	0.7	25.8
768½	566	Scot & New	734	+ 7	3.8	14.5
305	222½	Vaux Group	279	- 1½	5.1	11.5
338½	221	Wetherspoon JD	337½	- ½	0.7	39.0
868	620	Whitbread†	865½	- 7	3.5	14.8
706½	438	Wolvrhmptn D	476	..	5.0	10.5
382½	279½	Yates Bros	354½	..	1.1	25.4
702½	615	Young 'A'	667½	+ 5	2.9	27.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
680	530	Brammer	582½		3.5	14.1
27	12½	Bridgend Grp	13		1.9	59.4
119½	84½	Brit Fittings	95½	+ ½	5.8	7.6
380	300	Cattles	349		4.7	7.8
225	182½	Car Group	192½		3.1	
172½	117½	Cavendish†	130½	- 3	3.8	7.6
100	81½	Charles Sidney	86½		4.6	12.4
58½	42	Cook (DC)	43½	..	6.9	5.8
121	90½	Dag Motors	90	...	10.1	6.4
134½	102½	[illegible]	105½		3.3	9.7
400	215	Diploma†	222½		8.1	9.0
502½	387½	Electrocomponts†	484½	- 1½	2.2	25.0
226½	117½	Eurodis Elec	154½	+ 2	4.1	30.2
105	76½	European Mtrl	94		7.8	7.3
300	213	Evans Halshaw	250		7.1	...
55½	39½	Fife Indmar	47½		8.9	7.8
397½	276	Finelist Grp†	332½	+ 1½	2.8	14.8
34½	19½	Gardiner	21½	- ¼	5.5	7.9
79½	57½	Glenchewton	67½	+ 1½	2.9	11.0
110	82½	Gowrings	95½		4.1	15.9
15½	11	HR Owen	13	..	7.0	8.8
108	20½	[illegible]	22½			2.1
374	284½	Headlam†	326	+ 2	2.3	19.7
172	145	Holders Tech	152½		5.3	12.5
240½	65½	ISA Intl	75		5.0	5.9
308½	200	Inchcape†	203	- 9½	6.0	13.4
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	57½		6.4	7.4
343½	214½	Kwik-Fit	338½	+ 1½	2.2	18.4
460½	316½	Lex Service	448	- 1	4.6	13.5
122	97	Lookers	109½		9.1	7.8
9	5½	Middlesex	5½		2.2	14.1
41½	10½	Midshire†	19½		3.1	
472	180	Norbert†	280	+ 2½	3.9	11.3
224½	114½	Northamber†	224		1.4	15.8
352½	285½	Partco	315½		3.2	18.7
394½	254½	Pendragon	281½		4.5	12.4
229½	172½	Perry Gp	180½		6.4	8.0
751	403½	Premier Farnell	423	+ 1½	3.7	15.7
144½	116	Quicks Group	122½		7.7	8.1
357	285	REA	290		1.7	64.1
2½	1½	Reece	1½		...	50.2
28	9½	Ronson	12		...	
4	1½	Ross Gp	3½	+ ¼		
108½	78½	Ryland	103½		4.9	9.8
38	24	SEP Ind	27½		7.0	12.7
92½	25	Selim	28½	- 1½	5.3	
415½	208½	Time Products†	208½	- 1½	7.4	8.6
347	162½	Trust Motor Gp†	169½		8.6	7.2
408	228	UMECO	395		1.8	21.0
93½	58	United Cases Gp	65½		0.6	19.0
352½	267½	Vardy (Reg)	271	- 1½	3.5	12.9
695	498½	WF Elect	640		2.9	22.0
41	25½	Westburt	37	...	2.9	10.0
172½	111½	Wyko	148	...	2.5	16.4
159½	118½	Young (H)	154	- 1½	3.8	..

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	340	- 5	1.9	17.4
328	232	Ascot Hldgs	254		2.6	11.1
917	532½	[illegible]	580½	- 6½	3.6	15.6
289	174½	BTR	178	- 1	6.2	6.2
624	462	BAT†	555	+ 3	5.9	13.7
80½	41	Brierley Inv	45	+ ¼	10.6	7.3
266	182	Cookson	205	- 4½	4.9	12.9
240½	197½	Cosalt	230½		6.3	
415	255½	DCC†	385	+ 5	2.6	14.4
332½	243½	Gallaher	332½		7.2	10.4
140½	101½	Harrison Crsfld	122	- 1½	8.0	13.6
667½	338½	Hutch Whamp	419	- 18½	2.8	25.4
438½	361	Imperial Tob†	389½	- 2½	6.9	9.6
522½	305½	Jardine Math	305½	- 19½	5.0	11.8
158½	83½	Lonrho	94½	+ 1½	6.3	9.8
175½	141½	McLeod Russel	189		5.3	
482½	388½	Powell Duffryn†	471½	- 1	6.8	12.3
197½	141½	Steeley†	145½	+ 1½	7.7	19.0
604½	274½	Swire Pacific	355½	- 7½	3.9	...
387½	295½	TT Group	296½		3.4	12.1
351	252½	Tomkins	290½	- 4½	4.1	13.7
210	165	Unidare†	207½		7.8	
496	350	Wardle Storeys†	410		6.2	12.5
387½	285½	Wassall	326½	- 2	2.6	14.8
166½	122½	Whitecroft	139½		4.5	21.0

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1333½	897	Siebe	1240	- 5	1.2	22.1
227½	105½	[illegible]	117½	..	5.3	8.3
909½	708½	Smiths Indst	885	- 10	2.5	20.8
787	543	Spirax-Sarco	547½	+ ½	3.2	14.2
303½	236½	Sterling Ind	247½	+ 1½	5.1	8.9
698½	450	TI	531	+ 4	3.3	16.9
120½	88½	Tinsley (E)	100½	- 1	7.9	9.1
120½	92½	TransTec†	96	- 1½	3.2	13.0
229½	144½	Triplex Lloyd†	228½	+ 3	3.9	15.5
378	251½	Ultra Elect	352½	...	2.3	20.6
77½	48½	Utd Inds	52½		6.0	13.5
273½	169½	Vickers	241½	- 3½	3.7	15.0
10½	6½	Villiers Grp	7	- ¼		
712½	505	Vinten	643		2.4	12.2
952	742	Vosper Thornyft	918½	- 8½	4.1	12.6
350	213½	Wagon Ind	285		5.2	12.8
304½	203½	Weir	277	+ 2	3.7	13.5
259½	166½	Wellington Hldg	168½		6.0	9.8
40½	23	Wellman	40	+ 2½	5.8	12.7
71½	45½	Wescol†	62½		2.4	17.9
825	525	Whatman	780	- 5	2.2	22.8
65½	30½	Widney	40	...	11.7	

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
134	97	Adwest	150	...	5.8	12.2
197	156	Airflow Stream†	160		6.2	11.5
757	565	Avon Rubber	637	+ 4½	3.8	..
344	227½	[illegible]	337	- 1½	2.6	16.9
140	95	Britax†	131	+ ½	3.3	17.1
339½	238½	Dennis	313½		3.7	14.3
315½	219½	First Tech†	298½	- 8	1.5	23.5
1460	907	GKN	1310	+ 2	2.4	
4395½	3237½	General Mtr	3845½	- 9½	3.2	..
583½	357	Hardys	409		4.7	9.8
2323½	1540½	Honda Motor	2306½	+ 24½	0.3	..
502	312½	Laird†	458	- 4	3.1	..
245	180	LucasVarity†	193½	+ 3	2.5	16.0
206	131	Mayflower	182½	+ 4	1.7	25.9
172½	107½	Sydney	179	...	7.0	9.7
257½	123	T & N†	248	..	4.6	..
85½	18	Toad	20	..	..	

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
580	418	AB Food	553	- ½	2.3	17.5
311½	250	Acatos & Hutch	286	..	4.6	24.0
48½	34	Albert Fisher†	36½	+ ¼	11.5	9.5
320	275	Banks (S C)	282½		5.1	10.1
458	322	Barr (AG)	406½	+ 10	3.3	14.6
43	30	Bensons Crsp	34		4.1	8.5
402	244	Booker†	328	- 1½	8.2	
220	88	CPL Aromas†	91		6.3	37.9
662	464	Cadbury-Schw	624	+ 7	3.2	17.1
335	250	Carrs Milling	255		5.8	..
81½	57½	Cavaghan	71½	...	6.5	13.3
267½	203½	Carnwick†	247½		5.3	11.8
281	195½	Dairy Crest Group†	253		5.0	10.7
353½	217½	Dalgety	276½	- 4	6.0	
52½	30½	Daniels S	36½		1.2	20.4
408½	353½	Devro	380		2.9	17.0
130½	79½	Finlay (James)†	114	+ 1	3.9	20.9
403	250	Geest†	390	- 1	2.7	18.7
26	13	Global	13½		6.2	7.0
390	270	Greencore	275	+ 1½	3.2	..
161	98½	Hazlewood Fds	161		5.6	11.4
200½	153½	Hillsdown†	158½	- 1	8.0	9.8
77½	35½	IJ Group†	55½		11.1	11.6
420	345	Linton Park	385½	+ 1½	6.2	8.3
142	93	Matthews (B)	102	- 1	5.1	9.8
235½	177½	Nichols (N)	216½	- 1	4.2	22.2

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
635	522½	Secure Tst	616		4.3	13.4
152½	127½	Singer & Fried	147	+ 1	4.2	11.5
54½	29½	Towry Law	54½			
4½	1½	Two Hldgs	4½		...	
106½	85	Union	80½			
64	20½	Versailles Grp†	46½		1.2	27.8
397½	310	Wintrust	360		4.8	16.1

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
285	96	Brit Biotech	108	+ 2	...	
1115	610	Cantab Pharms	710			
673	247½	Celltech	286½	+ 17½	...	...
443½	225½	Chiroscience	248½			
293½	137½	Cortecs	198½	- ½		
1477½	885½	Glaxo Well	1440	+ 5	2.9	29.6
245	133½	ML Laboratories	137½			25.5
330½	197	Medeva	200	- 2	2.9	37.4
403	228½	Peptide Thera	276	+ 1		
202½	177½	Powderject	191½	+ 1		
92	24½	Proteus Intl	40			
84	56	Ransom (Wm)	74		4.3	15.3
737½	262½	Scotia	472½	- 10		
287½	216	Shire Pharma	270			
95	46	SkyePharma	50½	+ ½		
650	384½	SmithKline†	621	- 13	1.7	30.9
392	180	Therp Anti Inc	327½			
707½	367½	Vanguard	410	- 15	...	
435	166½	Xenova	175			
3291	1585½	Zeneca	1965	- 11	2.3	26.2

PRINTING & PAPER

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	86	AG Holdings†	87		9.0	11.3
782	570	API	580	- 2½	2.6	..
74½	47½	App Holo	67½			
208	151	Arjo Wiggins	167	- 4½	5.2	11.3
24	17½	Bath Press	21½		3.2	8.3
450½	369½	Bemrose	432½		4.5	12.5
229½	130	Blagden	156½	+ 1	2.1	10.2
3490½	2178½	Bowater Inc	2668½	+ 59½		
326½	248½	Benmore Ind	256½		1.5	17.7
745	442	Br Polythene	447½		5.2	10.6
24½	10½	Br Thornton	17½			
148	49	Bution Grp	138½		3.1	15.6
276½	188	Bunzl†	230½	+ 1	3.2	14.2
233½	125	Capital Inds	135		5.4	11.1
288½	256½	Cropper (James)†	266½	+ 10	2.3	9.5
673½	323	De La Rue	426½	+ 5	7.0	11.1
267½	195½	Dolphin Pack	237½		3.6	14.9
75½	35½	Fairway Group	38		13.2	11.7
238	117	Ferguson Intl	136½	+ 1½	12.1	10.4
165½	120½	Fibdar	149½		3.3	10.3
134	62½	Inveresk	75½	- 1	9.6	7.7
249½	177½	Jarvis Porter†	218		4.5	12.3
452	305	Low & Bonar	322	+ 6	5.8	9.7
128½	70	MY Holdings	76½		4.5	10.1
198½	147½	Macfarlane	184		2.8	16.6
850	406½	Photobition	817½	- 22½	1.1	27.0
179½	142½	Physu	159½		6.1	12.7
33	19½	Porter Chadburn	28		3.6	8.9
371	222½	REXAM	277½	- 13	6.2	18.6
557½	311	St Ives Gp	534½		2.7	16.4
665½	326½	Sappi	334½	+ ½	2.6	
5	0½	Security & General	3½			
115½	87½	Sidlaw	91½	- ½	3.1	24.8
314	186½	Smith David	205	- 2	4.9	8.9
214½	150½	Smurfit (Jef)	177		3.5	15.3
182	86½	Somic†	170		2.3	18.6
149½	103	Tinsley Robor	144		2.6	15.9
105	22½	Wace	27		13.9	
328½	230½	Waddington†	259		5.2	11.5
448	175	Watmough	277½	- 1	4.7	14.3
245½	180½	Wyndeham†	231½		2.9	14.1

PROPERTY

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
95	69½	Allied Lond†	90		5.6	10.9
177½	135	Asda	168½	- ½	2.1	26.6
40	25½	Achieway Grp	31½			
145½	124½	Ashtenne Hldgs	134½		4.6	14.5

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
187½	88½	Partners	90	- 71½	0.7	16.5
84½	67½	Partridge Fine	84½	+ 1	4.8	15.2
40½	26	QS Hldgs	29½			
397½	256½	Rosebys	313½	- ½	3.5	16.5
142½	50½	Save Group†	97½	- 1½	9.1	7.3
95½	47	Sears	47½	- ½	9.8	36.1
36½	26½	Signet Group	30			0.6
484½	330½	Smith WH	387	- 1½	4.8	
1220	910	Sotheby's†	1075	+ 50	2.3	..
305½	184	Storehouse†	242	- 5	4.3	12.2
150	77	Stylo	86½		6.7	
202½	152½	T & S Stores	190	...	5.3	10.5
288½	135	Thorn	152½		1.3	8.2
203½	123½	Tie Rack†	129½		3.2	13.1
340	205½	UNO	278		2.0	20.6
4	2½	Upton & South	3			15.1
543½	324½	Vendome†	469		2.8	17.5
26	3½	WEW Group	4½	..	..	3.5
417½	132½	Wickes	238½			4.7
313½	232½	Wyevale	275½	+ 2	3.0	18.3

SUPPORT SERVICES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
525	386	AEA Tech	489½	+ 2½	2.3	22.9
180½	142	Aggreko	163½		2.7	22.9
114	72	Alpha Airps	82½	..	8.1	7.9
66	34½	Alphameric	56			27.2
58	23½	Amle Grp	43	+ 2		
387½	254	Atkins WS	350	+ ½	2.5	21.7
188½	112½	BNB Res	155½		6.1	8.2
502½	394½	BPP	497½	+ 7½	3.5	19.0
204	95	BSM	190½		5.0	19.4
797½	416	BTG	675½	- 17½	0.2	..
95½	69½	Brooks Service	81½		5.5	12.0
575	432	Business Post	570	- 2½	3.5	24.3
1527½	840	CMG	1430	+ 20	0.5	46.4
363½	220½	CRT Grp†	362½	+ 7½	1.5	50.3
890	590	Caird Gp	812½		1.5	8.0
341	161½	Capita Group	328½		0.7	60.6
9	6	Chemex	8½	+ ½	2.3	15.7
250	172½	Corp Services	218	+ 1½	2.3	17.7
58½	26½	Coutts Cnslig	33	+ 4	9.9	
346	217½	DCS Gp	285½		0.8	22.5
790	417½	Danka Bs Syst	588½	+ 11½	0.8	21.7
313	232½	Davis Service	311	+ ½	4.3	17.9
910	655	Delphi	668½	- 7½	1.2	18.4
595	290	Diagonal	595	+ 17½	0.2	58.9
262½	170	Dudley Jenkins	262½	+ 5	3.3	21.5
79½	37	EW Fact	62½		4.0	10.8
100	49	El Data Prc	55½		5.1	
847½	470	FI Group▲	832½	- 12½	0.8	59.3
325	175	Harvey Nash	311½		1.6	
815	515	Hays	796	- 2	1.5	32.0
313½	194½	Hogg Robinson	239½	+ 7	5.4	11.0
1030	630	JBA Hldgs†	1027½	+ 2½	0.6	51.0
295	207	Johnson Clean	216½	+ 2½	6.9	6.6
114½	56	Kalamazoo	69½		7.6	10.1
647	521½	Kewill Syst	565	+ 2½	2.2	13.6
37½	15½	Lasco-Scan	17½			
346½	153½	Lavendon	345½	- 1	1.2	27.5
1057	671	Logica	1056	- 2½	1.4	23.9
487	280	Lonon	486		1.9	72.0
115½	77	Lynx Hldgs†	104	+ ½	2.4	
62	20	MDIS	46			
702½	415	MMT Comnt	700	+ 5	2.0	23.6
114½	85	MR Group	111½		4.3	15.2
492½	312½	Macro 4	340		9.3	10.1
92½	37½	Menlmore Abbey	51½	+ 6½	1.6	15.3
2367½	913½	Micro Focus	2215	+ 40		44.3
178½	69½	Microgen	75½		12.9	5.4
1802½	1054½	Misys	1780	- 17½	0.9	33.0
244½	155½	MITIE Gp	244½		1.0	30.9
52½	30½	Novo Group	51½		3.9	11.7
45½	33½	Orsis	41½		4.0	11.0
422½	220	PSD	409		1.7	18.8
125½	51½	Pacer Infotec†	100		3.6	16.1
652½	427½	Parity	651	- ½	0.8	35.3
390	228½	Pegasus	262½		3.6	11.1
158	96	Penna	154		1.3	7.9
152	108½	Photo-Med	113		5.5	13.7
31	10½	Proudfoot	31	+ 3		
252	185	RCO	172½		1.6	20.1
222½	129½	RPS Group	201		2.2	17.8
65	27½	Radius	34½	- ½	6.0	9.6
362½	198	Real Time	327½	- 8½	2.3	11.3
94½	59½	Rebus	83½	- 1½	2.9	18.2
165½	108½	Reed Executive	120½		2.9	6.9
171	100	Reliance Sec	171	+ 7	4.9	20.8
280	197½	Rentokil Int	258	- 1	1.3	28.3
155	109½	Ricardo Group	150		5.2	24.6
477	135½	Robert Walters	476½	+ 2	0.7	30.6

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
852½	577½	Anglian†	830		5.4	11.4
285	203	East Surrey†	285	+ 2½	4.9	11.5
970½	740	Hyder	953½	- 12	8.1	7.9
140½	101½	Hyder Cm Pd	117½	+ ¼	8.6	
673	532½	Mid Kent Hdgs	672½	+ 3½	5.9	9.8
1050	663	Severn Trent	993	- 6½	4.8	10.6
3290	2755	South Staffs†	3277½		3.8	13.5
938½	596½	South West†	935	- 1½	5.1	11.8
970	593½	Thames	948	- 11	4.8	10.5
808	605½	Utd Utilities†	756	- 6	6.3	12.3
528½	344½	Wessex	504½	- ½	4.7	9.6
503½	325	Yorkshire†	490½	- 1	5.0	9.6

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
159½	84½	Abacus Recruit	159½	..	1.2	18.4
217	170	Cafe Inns†	207½	...	1.8	15.8
262½	180	Dawson Hdgs	220		2.7	21.2
51¼	26½	Freepages	26¼	- ¼	...	
98½	64½	Megalomedia	66		0.4	31.5
65	22½	Memory Corp	30	- 1		...
590	280	Prism Rail†	395	+ 5	1.6	
1265	732½	Ramco Egy	877½	+ 5	0.1	...
783	619½	Southern News	737½	+ 1	3.4	19.6
90½	65½	Southern Vectis	80½		3.3	16.7
60½	17½	Trocadero†	18		..	

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
116⅝	113⅞	Treas 4⅜% 1998	116⅞		3.99	6.62
103¼	100⅞	Exch 9¾% 1998	100⅞		9.73	7.27
107⅞	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.31
110¼	102⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	102⅝		13.60	7.33
114⅞	106⅞	Treas 15½% 1998	106⅞	...	14.58	7.29
109⅝	104¼	Exch 12% 1998	104⅞	+ ⅛	11.51	7.22
105½	102¼	Treas 9½% 1999	102⅞	+ ⅛	9.28	7.19
111⅞	106¼	Exch 12¼% 1999	106⅞	+ ⅛	11.53	7.09
108⅝	104½	Treas 10½% 1999	104⅝	+ ⅛	10.04	7.06
99⅞	96⅞	Treas 6% 1999	98⅞	+ ⅛	6.09	6.92
109¼	105⅝	Conv 10¼% 1999	105⅝	+ ⅛	9.69	6.99
106½	103⅝	Conv 9% 2000	104⅝	+ ⅛	8.64	6.92
104⅞	102⅞	Treas 8% 2000	103⅞	+ ⅛	7.76	6.84
104⅝	102⅞	Treas 8½% 2000	102⅞	+ ⅛	8.26	6.96
119⅝	113½	Treas 13% 2000	113⅞	+ ⅛	11.41	6.99
112⅞	98⅞	Treas 10% 2001	108⅞	+ ⅛	9.20	6.89
101⅞	98⅞	Treas 7% 2001	106½	+ ⅛	6.56	6.76

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
102⅞	97⅞	Treas 7% 2002	107⅞	+ ⅛	6.91	6.89
122¼	109¼	Treas 9¾% 2002	111¼	+ ¼	8.71	6.75
107⅞	102⅞	Treas 8% 2003	106¼	+ ⅛	7.53	6.63
117¼	111¼	Treas 10% 2003	115¼	+ ⅛	6.64	6.64
116⅞	112⅞	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113⅞	+ ⅛	10.15	6.91
90⅞	82⅞	Fund 3½% 1999-04	89⅞	+ ⅛	3.91	5.40
118⅞	109⅞	Conv 9½% 2004	115⅞	+ ⅛	8.30	6.56
102⅞	94½	Treas 6¾% 2004	101⅞	+ ⅛	6.67	6.54
114¼	104⅞	Treas 8½% 2005	112⅞	+ ⅛	7.57	6.51
122⅞	110⅞	Conv 9½% 2005	116⅞	+ ⅛	8.13	6.50
130⅞	124⅞	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128⅞	+ ⅛	9.75	6.68
106⅞	98⅞	Treas 7½% 2006	106⅞	+ ⅛	7.31	6.47
110⅞	99⅞	Treas 7¾% 2006	108⅞	+ ⅛	7.16	6.50
106½	100⅞	Treas 8% 2002-06	104⅞	+ ⅛	7.62	6.78
123⅞	115⅞	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121½	+ ⅛	9.68	6.72
116½	105⅞	Treas 8½% 2007	114⅞	+ ½	7.44	6.48
107⅞	96⅞	Treas 7¼% 2007	106⅞	+ ⅛	6.83	6.41
121⅞	108⅞	Treas 9% 2008	120⅞	+ ⅛	7.48	6.37
114⅞	101	Treas 8% 2009	113⅞	+ ⅛	7.07	6.40
99⅞	88¼	Treas 6¼% 2010	98⅞	+ ⅛	6.35	6.43
124⅞	109½	Conv 9% 2011	122⅞	+ ⅛	7.32	6.43
125⅞	109½	Treas 9% 2012	123⅞	+ ⅛	7.26	6.45
93½	80⅞	Treas 5½% 2008-12	92⅞	+ ⅛	5.95	6.32
112⅞	98⅞	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	111½	+ ⅛	6.94	6.51

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
116½	100⅞	Treas 8% 2013	115⅞	+ ⅛	6.94	6.44
118⅞	101⅞	Treas 8% 2015	117⅞	+ ⅛	6.82	6.38
125⅞	103⅞	Treas 8¾% 2017	125⅞	+ ⅛	6.95	6.41
121⅞	101⅞	Tr 8% 2021	120⅞	+ ⅛	6.66	6.34

UNDATED

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
54½	43⅞	War Ln 3½%	54½	+ ⅛	6.42	...
38¼	30⅞	Treas 2½%	37¼	+ ⅛	6.60	
60⅞	49⅞	Consols 4%	60⅞	+ ⅛	6.64	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	5%	3%
193⅞	184⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2001	193⅞	+ ⅛	3.07	3.40
191⅞	180⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2003	191⅞	+ ⅛	3.07	3.30
123⅞	117⅞	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	123⅞	+ ⅛	3.03	3.33
204⅞	198	Treas IL 2% 2006	204⅞	+ ⅛	3.07	3.27
186⅞	170⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2009	186⅞	+ ⅛	3.03	3.15
195⅞	176⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2011	195⅞	+ ⅛	3.04	3.14
162⅞	148⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2013	162⅞	+ ⅛	3.04	3.13
175⅞	153⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2016	175⅞	+ ⅛	3.04	3.17
169⅞	147⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2020	169⅞	+ ⅛	3.05	3.13
142⅞	122⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2024	142⅞	+ ⅛	3.05	3.11
140⅞	119⅞	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	140⅞	+ ⅛	3.04	3.10

BRIEFLY NOTED

Lure of Sussex

OPERA: With London's musical life in turmoil, the haven of Glyndebourne is proving attractive to restless spirits. The shortlist for the vacant job of general administrator of the private opera house is said to include such luminaries as Nicholas Payne, boss of the Royal Opera, Nicholas Snowman, maestro of the South Bank Centre, and Serge Dorny, manager of the London Philharmonic. George Christie, Glyndebourne's owner, will clearly need to conduct interviews in sunglasses, lest he be dazzled by the lustre of the applicants.

LITERATURE: Douglas Hurd, prolific novelist and sometime Foreign Secretary, will be the chairman of judges for the 1998 Booker Prize for Fiction. "I feel like a young subaltern selected to lead a platoon on a particularly dangerous mission," he says.

RECORDING: For the first time in 70 years a record company has issued a new 78rpm vinyl disc made by musicians recording directly onto wax. The company is EMI, and this bold leap into the prehistoric past of recorded sound has been made to celebrate the label's centenary. On the 78rpm disc, which comes complete with the old red label depicting the dog listening to "His Master's Voice", the tenor Roberto Alagna sings an aria from *Pagliacci* and a ballad by Gastaldon. The package also includes a modern CD and video of the event.

THEATRE: The stricken Liverpool Playhouse, currently in the hands of a court administrator, will benefit from a gala next Monday. Pauline Daniels, Ken Dodd, Gerry and the Pacemakers, the cast of *Brookside* and members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be among those raising cash for the theatre, which will close permanently on January 3 unless a saviour can be found. Information from Lizzie-Anne Meachin, 0151-709 8478.

BROADWAY: Natasha Richardson, who hasn't sung on stage since appearing in Richard Eyre's ill-fated production of *High Society*, will play Sally Bowles when Sam Mendes's production of *Cabaret* opens in New York in February. Alan Cumming plays the Master of Ceremonies, a part he took in Mendes's 1993 Donmar Warehouse staging. *Cabaret* will mark Mendes's Broadway directing debut.

Will the glass wave hit a concrete wall?

It is now-or-never day for Lord Rogers's vast South Bank roof. **Marcus Binney** weighs up its pros and cons

Today the Arts Council faces the most difficult decision in its history: whether to approve in whole, or in part, a £113 million grant to London's South Bank Centre. The size of the sum eclipses the £78.5 million given to the Royal Opera House. As yet another London project, it may prove even more explosive.

The grant represents three-quarters of the total £151 million estimated building costs for development of the Festival Hall and six other venues, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Hayward Gallery, the Purcell Room, the Literature Centre, a new IT centre, and a new informal performance space, all brought together under a sensational "wave" glass roof designed by the Richard Rogers Partnership.

The easiest part is the Festival Hall. Here the Arts Council will be sharing the costs with the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has already agreed in principle to a contribution of £20 million. The architects in charge, Allies and Morrison, have already shown that they can provide value for money — opening up the stylish People's Palace restaurant on the riverfront and recreating the original transparency of the building by a simple policy of allowing no one to place anything against the windows.

Graham Morrison explains: "Our aim is a complete refurbishment of the building to its condition on opening in 1951. We can greatly improve the acoustics in the auditorium, which were excellent at the start. The problem is that much of the sound is now absorbed by inappropriate surfaces. We will sand down and polish the wood, give it a more solid backing so that it will be more reflective."

The second great change will be to restore the original system of circulation. "In 1951 the river terrace was a place to go to, not to enter by. The clarity of the plan is lost. Today you don't see the staircases till you are well into the building," says Morrison. They plan to reinstate the original ground-floor entrance opposite the Hayward as the main entrance, and restore the upper-level entrance opening off a newly transformed Hungerford Bridge.

Best of all they intend to reopen the roof terraces. "The accommodation at the top of the building was taken over when the administration was moved out of the old GLC building. Up here are the best views in London, with sunset over the Palace of Westminster and a panorama swinging right round to the dome of St Paul's," says Morrison.

The hard part of the Arts Council decision centres on contributing three-quarters of the £108 million needed for Lord Rogers's glass roof and everything within it. Almost everyone agrees that there is a desperate need to make the whole South Bank more attractive, thereby bringing in more people. Jo Kennedy, the project director, says: "Research shows that 95 per cent of people say the South Bank environment is appalling and puts them off coming." The Arts Council aim is to increase annual visitors to the South Bank Centre from 3.3 million to 5.3 million.

The brief called for something akin to the Pompidou Centre in Paris. So it is not surprising that Richard Rogers was chosen as the winner. He has always thought big. His wave roof is potentially the most beautiful London landmark of the millennium, taking the tradition of the 19th-century iron and glass station roof, and transforming it into a futuristic saddle shape which will look dramatically different from every angle.

And besides transforming the windswept, dangerous and dingy concrete walkways that surround the site, the roof would also have the virtue of covering up the now deeply unfashionable brutalist architecture of the Hayward and Queen Elizabeth Hall. Few would regret that: many would rejoice.

But the arguments against the Rogers scheme are formidable. An Arts Council insider comments: "The Allies and Morrison proposals were well documented and thoroughly researched. The Rogers scheme was more sketchy and less precise, particularly on the interface with the Festival Hall."

It is precisely this which works Margaret Richardson, the president of the Twentieth Century Society, into anger. "The Rogers wave roof rises so high that it will swamp the Festival Hall. Glass is only transparent when lit internally. For most of the time this will be perceived as a solid mass interrupting important views along the river."

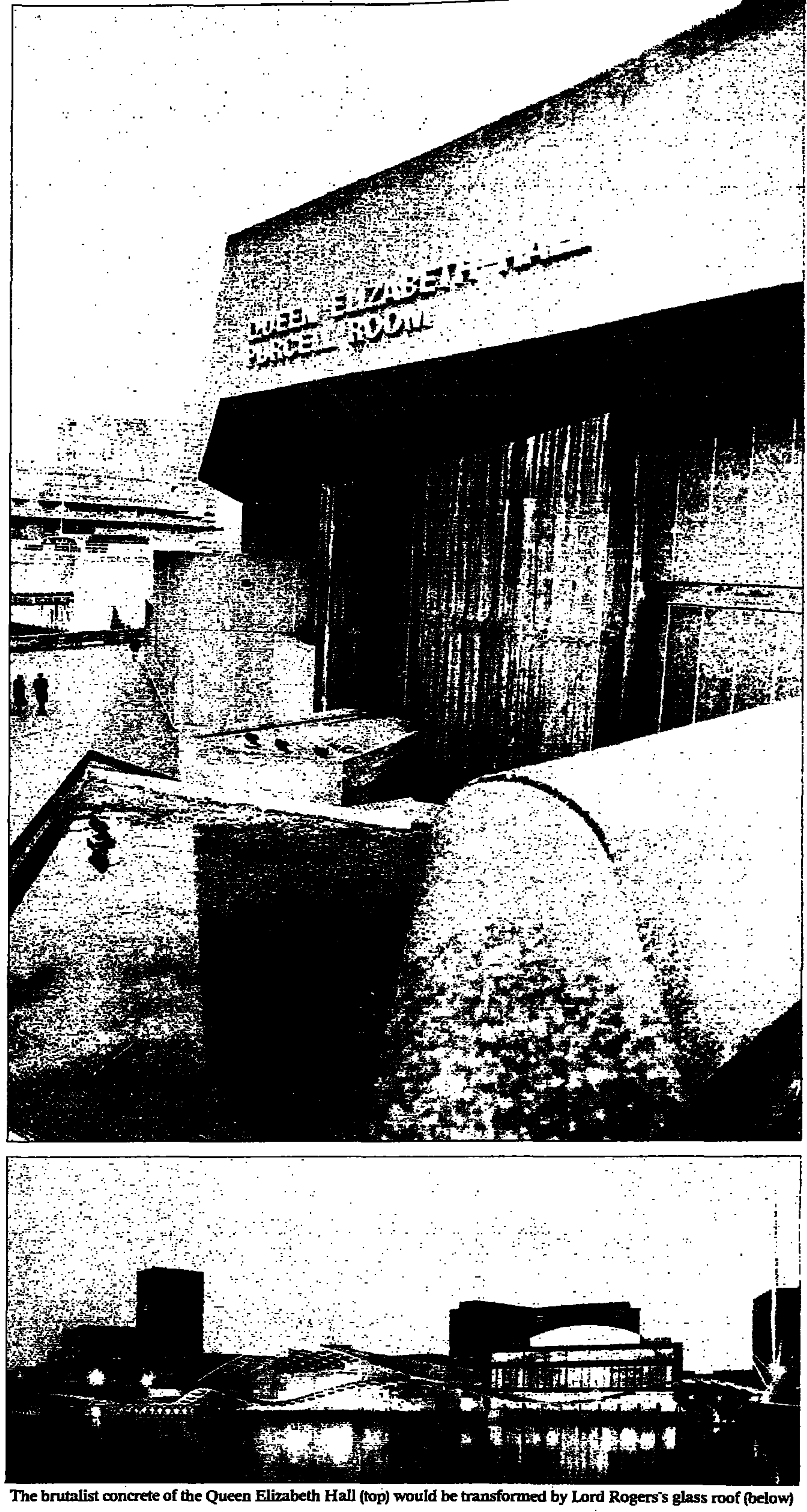
Even Morrison acknowledges: "The view of St Paul's from the Festival Hall roof depends on complete transparency." One way to reduce the impact might be to remove the tail of the "wave" from in front of the Festival Hall, leaving the riverfront of the Festival Hall in full view across the Thames.

The objection to the Rogers plan is made forcefully by Terry Farrell, perhaps not surprisingly, since his initial proposals for the South Bank were costed at a modest £15 million. Farrell, who also proposed an overall roof, says: "I hated and wished to undo the mega-architecture which wrapped the Festival Hall and the whole site in octopus tentacles of the same concrete design. I am concerned the Rogers scheme may be perceived as doing the same, enveloping the whole site in one kind of architecture."

Farrell placed a priority on creating an outdoor open space between the Festival Hall and the Hayward. By contrast the sheer height of the Rogers glass roof means it meets the Festival Hall at second floor level. Morrison, however, is not worried about the lack of an individual entrance for the Festival Hall. "We'll share the foyer with the other attractions."

While the Arts Council can easily agree a phased plan for the Festival Hall, it is all or nothing with the Rogers roof. And if it is nothing there is the risk of losing Paul Hamlyn's astounding offer of £17 million towards the scheme.

It can be argued that all Rogers's main buildings have been flawed: the Pompidou Centre because of the huge cost of maintenance; and the Lloyds Building because the brokers came close to moving out of it altogether. Yet the fact remains that these are among the great buildings of our time. The Arts Council has £200 million to spend on large-scale projects of national significance between 1998 and 2006. It requires colossal political courage to back the Rogers scheme — but there will never be a more prominent site, or one with the potential to attract more visitors.



The brutalist concrete of the Queen Elizabeth Hall (top) would be transformed by Lord Rogers's glass roof (below)

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CONCERTS: Violinist Sarah Chang grows up dazzlingly; Haitink unites exiles; hearing problems

Fine display of everything but the girl

Sarah Chang
Barbican

Nothing, last Sunday, was quite what it seemed. In a cunningly devised programme, the violinist Sarah Chang's recital unfolded a series of transformations: a violin sonata which really belonged to a flute, a piano solo transfigured, and an opera extravaganza with violin as diva.

The evening had begun with the high-profile prodigy deferring to her pianist in the C major Sonata (K296) Mozart had written "for the harpsichord or pianoforte, with the accompaniment of a violin". Unfortunately, Charles Abramovic was determined to defer to Chang, and the violin's alto singing, its accompanying figures and long sustained notes rang out almost crudely in the presence of a pianist self-effacing almost to vanishing point.

The transformation which really mattered, though, was that of Chang herself. The rapt little girl in the party frock has become the beautiful young woman in the designer gowns — two of them per evening, it seems. And her Richard Strauss Sonata for Violin and Piano in E flat, following the Mozart, confirmed that, for the time being, the blithe melodic freedom of the child has gone, and with it the sense of wonder and delight which was so much a mark of her playing. In its place is a resilient, high-energy virtuosity which travels well and, I suspect, is pretty crease-resistant.

Chang is now 16, and the musical adolescence of a prodigy is, after all, one of the trickiest times of all. Prokofiev's Sonata No 2, which she turned to after the interval, recasts its original flute writing in such a way as to exercise every muscle of the violin, particularly in the breadth of its Kazakh folk melodies, and the vigour of its finale.

Chang certainly gave it a good work-out. But one can only hope that once she has got through a period of what feels like survival, some of that sense of delight and surprise in sound itself, and some of that original buoyancy of both bow and imagination, will return.

Chang's Chopin Nocturne No 20 in C sharp minor revealed a beautifully controlled line and a particularly eloquent dark, low register. For his part, Abramovic seemed almost relieved that Nathan Milstein's arrangement had deprived him of any responsibility for the melody.

His call to attention at the start of Sarasate's *Carmen Fantasy* was a limp curtain-raiser to what proved to be a strenuous medley of tunes and technique, which was sadly lacking in either subtlety or wit.

HILARY FINCH

Paradise retained

LPO/Haitink
Festival Hall

BERNARD HAITINK'S concerts with the London Philharmonic are usually red-letter dates in the orchestra's diary, and Sunday's was no exception. It featured a typically thoughtful programme, bringing Britten's *Les Illuminations* and Mahler's Symphony No 4 together under one of the season's themes, the composer in exile. Both these composers spent a significant period in America: although his Fourth was written before the outsider Mahler was driven from Vienna, *Les Illuminations* was the first work Britten completed abroad.

Both works also call for a soprano soloist, and Janice Watson displayed her versatility while being especially radiant in the Britten. The song cycle's brilliance of sound derives from the combination of its strings-only accompaniment and a bright soprano such as Watson's, and she spun long lines of pure, golden tone. Her soft singing was exquisitely controlled, but sometimes it seemed as if beauty of tone was at the expense of verbal clarity in Rimbaud's poetry.

The LPO strings were on splendidly incisive form, responsive to every demand Haitink made from the podium. Together they caught the imagery of each number, from the racing energy of the beginning to the resignation of the end and the dark austerity along the way.

Haitink's account of the Mahler was also dark — but slow and deliberate. The journey the symphony depicts through fantasy land towards a child's Paradise was less carefree than often: rather than playing up the nightmarish episodes, Haitink cast clouds over the supposedly happier ones. He painted in the detail with particularly vivid orchestral contributions and the leader Joakim Svenheden's menacing, mistuned solos in the scherzo were highly effective. Watson's words could once again have been sharper and perhaps then her playful song might have sounded less generalised. But, supported by refined playing, she sang glowingly at the close as Paradise was at last attained.

JOHN ALLISON

Mahler in recession

RSNO/Lazarev
Edinburgh

ALTHOUGH a considerable asset to the city in other ways, the Edinburgh Festival Theatre is not a great place for orchestral concerts. The acoustics are discouragingly dry and the shape of the stage does not suit the layout of a large modern orchestra. So why has the Royal Scottish National Orchestra abandoned the Usher Hall to play there?

The ironic answer is that, having made all the necessary arrangements for an alternative Edinburgh venue well in advance of the scheduled closure for refurbishment of the Usher Hall, the RSNO found that the City Council's application for National Lottery funds had been rejected and work on the hall indefinitely postponed. By then it was too late to correct the situation and the orchestra now has to go through with it, whether the public likes it or not.

While it is obviously bad luck for the RSNO, it is probably also true that more could be done to improve the Festival Theatre acoustics. As a performance of Mahler's Seventh Symphony vividly demonstrated, the strings in general and the violins in particular are at a severe disadvantage. It is not all loss, however. The two "Night Music" movements, where the strings have a more chamber-like role to play, were heard with unusual clarity. The outer movements, on the other hand, were starved of expressive and muscular nourishment.

Some aspect of these impressions must, of course, be attributable to Alexander Lazarev's interpretation. Happily, he does not distort Mahler as he tends to distort Brahms. On the contrary, he treats the score with immense respect. He seems, however, to have little instinctive feeling for the Mahler idiom and personality. In spite of some fairly specious rubato in one of the more lyrical passages, he treated the first movement much as one might approach a Shostakovich first movement, with long-term patience rather than bar-by-bar inspiration. As for the problems associated with the finale, a determination to get through it as quickly as possible is not the answer.

GERALD LARNER

هكذا من الأهل

هكذا من الإصل

As London prepares to hold *The Front Page* again, **Joe Joseph** exposes the truth behind the myth of the hack as hero

Type cast as a paper lion

The really thrilling part of being a journalist is that when momentous world events unfold you can find yourself bang in the thick of the action. This means you could be standing so close to powerful world leaders that you can actually ask them, straight to their face, key journalist questions such as: "Mr President, do you happen to possess an international telephone jack that would enable me to use my computer to file 1,200 words back to my newsdesk?"

That's what makes watching portrayals of journalists on stage and in movies so enthralling. The creature who materialises before you is almost always an indefatigable seeker after truth; a champion of good over evil; more cunning than a fox; wittier than Woody Allen; a whizz with women.

But when most journalists look in the mirror, they don't see this mirage. What they see is a person who spends their working day devising headlines for stories about a council plan to pedestrianise the bit of Mansfield Avenue outside the new Marks & Spencer's.

Not that any of this ever dents the public's appetite for newspaper movies in general, and for *The Front Page* in particular. Cynicism, humour, fast dialogue and a softspot for the profession by the two former hacks who wrote it have made *The Front Page* the most successful newspaper story ever told. And retold.

Now nearly 70 years old, the play is being revived once again. Griff Rhys Jones plays the star role of Hildy Johnson. You know Hildy; he's the ace Chicago reporter who is about to leave newspapers for a new life as a married man with a genteel job in advertising when his editor, Walter Burns (played by Alun Armstrong), persuades him to cover the last hanging to be staged in the state before the introduction of the electric chair.

Cary Grant as Walter Burns and Rosalind Russell as a distaff Hildy Johnson swap wisecracks over a hot typewriter in *His Girl Friday*, adapted from *The Front Page*

Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur, the two journalists-turned-screenwriters who wrote it, had intended to be brutal about the brash world of tabloid journalism that they had both got to know so well. But they must have weakened — spawning, in their wake, a Hollywood factory of movie journalists who are courageous and clever, hard-drinking but diligent, and morally hot about injustice. Part detective, and cooler than cowboys, hacks became a reliable Hollywood standby.

But from *All The President's Men* to *Welcome to Sarajevo*; from *Citizen Kane* to Frank Capra's *It Happened One Night*; from Kirk Douglas in Billy Wilder's *Ace in the Hole* to Burt Lancaster in *Sweet Smell of Success*; and from *The Year Of Living Dangerously* and *The Killing Fields* to *La Dolce Vita*, *Bonfire Of The Vanities* and *The Paper*, screen journalists have rarely been fully believable. At least not to anyone who has worked in a newspaper office.

This is because what journalists actually do would not make very exciting cinema. Very few journalists get around to deposing deceitful presidents of America. Even fewer sneak into telephone kiosks and change into Superman. In reality, what most journalists do is sit around for much of the day smoking each other's cigarettes and drinking coffee from special vending machines which recreate the authentic flavour of coffee, providing coffee is supposed to taste like it was made from mud, hot water and Tippex correction fluid. Naturally, we all strive for accuracy. But where absolute truth is impossible to pin down, your average responsible journalist will always check with at least two reliable colleagues that what they are about to write sounds plausible enough to get past the night lawyer.

It really *is* great to hear Humphrey Bogart, playing a newspaper managing editor in the 1952 film *Deadline*, telling a wide-eyed cub reporter: "So you wanna be a reporter. Here's a bit of advice. Don't ever change your mind. It may not be the oldest profession, but it's the best." If it ever brings a teeny tear to a journalist's eye, it's only because they're laughing so much.

You find even the most elegant writers stumbling when they face the hurdle of casting a journalist. Tom Stoppard's play *Night and Day* has always struck me as among his creakiest. Earlier this year Alan Bleasdale, one of Britain's finest television dramatists, created for us the award-winning war correspondent Guy Foster when he updated Francis Durbridge's whodunnit, *Melissa*.

Foster was the deluxe Fleet Street model from central casting. He fumed about injustice; he had a vodka problem; he still used a manual, portable typewriter; he hungered after "truth". When, while walking past a TV shop while out shopping, he caught sight of a war report on the news, he dramatically dropped his carrier bag full of Fairy Liquid and Weetabix and jumped on the next plane out of Heathrow.

Disillusioned with journalism, Foster then tried (unsuccessfully) to write a novel, which was really just a pretext to deliver this outburst: "I've spent 14 years of my working life attempting to write the truth . . . Avoiding anything that was made up, or mixed up, or coming with spin. Writing fiction is basically all about the art of lying, skilfully . . . It should be easy now. For the very first time since I last wrote fiction I have permission to cheat and to lie. I can't cheat; I can't lie. I can't fly. I can't turn a train into a plane. I see a train. That's all I see. I haven't seen a plane all day." Well, honestly, what could you possibly say, except that sitting indoors wasn't going to help. The lad should have got himself to Gatwick, and pronto.

Even Lou Grant, everyone's favourite TV hack, was a preposterous confection. Presumably we were not supposed even to notice that Ed Asner had changed from a comic newsroom boss in *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* to a serious-minded, crusading news editor when he moved from Minneapolis to the *Los Angeles Tribune* and got his own show. Suddenly Lou had a social conscience, reflected in everything from scripts dealing with rape and prostitution to his policy of hiring human misfits such as Joe "Scoop" Rossi and Animal, the staff photographer.

Asner's newshounds weren't journalists. They were romantic, surrogate detectives, chasing and exposing crime and wrongdoing. This is partly because exposing crime and wrongdoing gives a show some zip, and partly because a film depicting traditional journalistic office pastimes — tossing press releases in the bin, whining about why the fax machine is always jammed and sniggering about what their rivals on other newspapers decided constituted snappy news that morning — would make a series of altogether *too* gritty realism.

But don't go thinking there is any risk that Hollywood will fall out of love with the newspaper movie any time soon. Why? Not because it adores journalists. Rather more because, as Matthew Arnold noted, "journalism is literature in a hurry" — which happens to be just how the movie business likes its literature.

● The Front Page *is in preview at the Donmar Warehouse, London WC2 (0171-369 1732) from tonight*

Misery begins at home

THE gloomiest corner of the Royal Court's New European Writers' Season is squatted by Dea Loher, a German writer with the same God-forsaken humour as Heiner Müller at his most depressed. It is a no man's land of dead leaves, cigarette ends, dim lighting and toppled chairs. Yet this anonymous armpit of industrial Germany is the promised land for Yanne, a young Macedonian who has dodged the call-up in Yugoslavia.

He seeks refuge with a family of impoverished Macedonian exiles, hoping that the revolutionary credentials of his father will ease his passage. The stooped figure of Hristo, after all, fought alongside his father. Yanne finds instead a family whose respectability and idealism is built on a lifetime of secrets and lies.

Bald, beak-nosed and bitter, Christopher Ettridge's Hristo deeply resents Yanne's presence. His wife, Terese (Gillian Hanna), it transpires, does a little prostitution on the side. "It's just a business. It keeps me alive," she says. "I don't think your private life's any of my business," protests Yanne. "It is, it is," shouts Terese. And she's right: Yanne occupies the room she uses to earn the cash. It is a discomfiting moment, one of the few to shed light on the play's themes.

Stranger's House
Ambassadors

Mary Peate's production looks at other moments like a torch with a dying battery. Terese's daughter Agnes falls for Yanne's elusive Macedonian charm. Her sleazy husband, Jörg, seethes with unconvincing cowardly rage. But the soundtrack of dripping water, passing traffic and echoey voices proves more unsettling than the performances themselves.

Loher's bleak vision of Germany is unmistakeably cynical. Yanne's presence gradually becomes as much a source of prickling conscience as it is an excuse for animosity. As his expectations of his adopted home become tarnished, so does he.

Rhys maps this transition much more convincingly than his relationships. Only Caroline O'Neill's sexy jaded bar owner seems happy to see him. Everyone else desires or avoids the need for atonement. When it comes, after 90 minutes, the relief around the theatre is palpable.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Happy coincidences

This is one of the three theatres being driven on the rocks by the London Arts Board's decision to take all the funding that might have gone to them in order to heap it upon a fourth. Greenwich, the Gate and the King's Head will therefore be left to shrivel. The action of the LAB is indefensible, and no defence has come forth from a board that contains *only* one active worker in the arts.

This version of Dickens's semi-autobiography will presumably be the last work Matthew Francis adapts and directs here. Inevitably, compression emphasises coincidence. David no sooner steps along a city street than he meets a crucial somebody from his past. Everybody turns out to be connected with everyone else, but where the sheer extent of the 650-page novel reduces the oddness of this, on the stage the unspoken suggestion that life is simple is a nuisance.

David Copperfield
Greenwich

The multiple interconnections of the story are visually interpreted in Lez Brotherston's set, where a double staircase of various kinds of steps climbs around the stage by way of bedrooms, offices and upturned boats, while more steps come forward to a seashore and ropes hang overhead for later use in the storm where Steerforth meets his death. This staging helps Francis's own swift succession of scenes, which flow smoothly into one another, too suavely when the passage of years is required but reminiscent of the way people do disappear from immediate experience.

The book, and now the play, contains some unforgettable characters, most of them equipped with a personal catchphrase as though they were turns in a radio comedy: "Donkeys!" "Something will turn up." "Ever so 'umble." David himself is a wet. Francis is probably right to leave out the statement that this dewy-eyed chap ends up as a famous writer; even in the novel this beggars belief, and still more does it seem incredible when watching the hero blithely fail to understand the nature of people until well into his twenties.

Learning to look beyond the superficial is a major theme, but since the adaptation is required to show us what is in front of his unobservant eyes, the hero inevitably turns into someone weirdly slow-witted. Curiously, while Damien Matthews as the adult David emphasises the naivety, his younger self (Paul Bailey), who remains present throughout the play — a good toch — preserves a clearer vision.

These reservations aside, the production creates a pleasant evening, greatly helped by the performances of Peter-Hugo Daly as a Uriah Heep bent like a crushed question mark, Des McAleer and Brian Poyser as Messrs Micawber and Dick, and an array of matrons, bristling or batty, from Miranda Kingsley and Susan Porrett.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MARILYN KINGWILL

Paul Bailey and Damien Matthews — two David Copperfields for the price of one at Greenwich

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

DANIEL EVANS

Age: 24.

Profession: Actor.

Flying high: He's playing Peter Pan in the National Theatre's new production directed by John Caird, which opens next Tuesday. Rehearsals were "really thrilling," according to Evans. "The set of *Guys and Dolls* was still up in the Olivier, so it was like flying through Manhattan."

Child's play: "We had children in for a day, making little playlets with us. We were supposed to observe, but everyone just regressed. But the play is moving: it's about the loss of innocence."

Perpetual youth? He left Guildhall School of Music and Drama early, in 1994, to play the Boy in the RSC's *Henry V* and Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Then he was a teenager in Peter Gill's *Cardiff East* at the National and is now playing Petya, the youngest Rostoff, in Radio 4's *War and Peace*. "I look forward to growing up one day."

Welsh connection: Brought up in the Rhondda Valley, he won prizes for verse-speaking at the National Eisteddfod in 1990 and 1992. "Welsh is my first language. My parents are both teachers, my eldest brother is a surgeon, the next a dentist. I'm the weirdo of the family."

National debut: He strode the Olivier stage in 1990 for the Lloyds Bank Theatre Challenge for young people — in Welsh. "It was a musical and I played a politician, who was also a preacher and poet."

Heroes? "My teacher wrote to Ian McKellen in the 1980s. He agreed to meet me and was terribly kind and kept in touch. It's bizarre working with him [McKellen plays Hook in the new production]. Otherwise my heroes tend to change, but Mark Rylance's Hamlet was fantastic."

Screen credits: Kerry Sherlock's Welsh-language *Cameleon*, which did well at the Berlin festival. "I play the brother of a Second World War deserter."

Ultimate ambition: "I'd like to have a company of my own and do the classics in Welsh."

HEATHER NEILL

Dope friend

COMEDY

HE WAS friends with everybody that he smoked dope with, and he has smoked dope with everybody. Howard Marks is a very nice man. The PLO, the IRA and the Mob all loved him; they carried his drugs, they stopped his ass getting whipped in prison.

Today, it seems, we love him too. The British have always been suckers for a gentleman criminal and Howard Marks is one of the finest: Oxford, MI6, and a voice as rich as the resin that made him his absent millions.

Now he wants to share a joint with the rest of the world. The thick smoke exhaled by the crowd sharing **An Evening With Howard Marks** at the Shepherds Bush Empire owed more to Philip Morris than Pablo Escobar, but the sight of the man puffing away on stage provoked the kind of hysteria normally reserved for striptease.

For a glorified book reading the evening did have a curiously pornographic feel. Tales of smuggling were illustrated with slides of raw hashish arranged in a variety of provocative poses. Yet Marks's skills extend far beyond being able to stay vertical after chain-smoking marijuana cigarettes. The *man* based a career on talking himself into some of the world's most dangerous situations and boy, can he talk.

It would be a *shame* if his drug-smuggling tales kept his audience restricted to dope fetishists. He is a compelling raconteur with a ragged sexiness. Had he not turned to smuggling he probably would have made a fine politician. He fielded questions with a measured charm that would go down a storm in the House.

Unfortunately, his audience does not have his taste for intelligent discussion. In such an atmosphere of mob rule it was impossible to voice the questions that should have been asked. Marijuana may never have killed anybody, but the organisations it funded most certainly did. So who *was* responsible for that?

HETTIE JUDAH

The Royal Opera

'a revelation … impossible to fault'
Rodney Milnes, The Times 1997

'a triumph … I laughed, I cried, I cheered, I came out walking on air'
Rupert Christiansen, The Daily Telegraph 1997

Once in a while the odd thing happens…

Paul Bunyan

OPENS TONIGHT

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hergle

LONDON

THE FRONT PAGE: Alun Armstrong and Griff Rhys Jones play hard-nosed editor and ace reporter, leading a lovely cast in Sam Mendes's production of the classic Ben Hecht/Charles MacArthur comedy set in the newspaper world. See preview, page 37
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Previews tonight-Fri, 7.30pm. Opens Mon, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm

LITTLE EYOLF: Terrific playing by Robert Glenister and Joanne Pearce at the heart of Adrian Noble's superb Ibsen production. Guilt, remorse and renewal on the fiord
Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Previews from tonight, 7.15pm. Opens Mon, 7pm. In rep

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Bernard Haitink's steady hand wields the baton in this concert by the LPO. The programme opens with Mozart's Piano Concerto in D minor with the excellent Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires as soloist. In the evening's second half the orchestra is joined by the BBC Singers for a complete performance of Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloë*, a work first brought to fame by Diaghilev's Russian Ballet.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

SHERYL CROW: After a brilliant year culminating in her being chosen as the singer-writer of the theme tune to the latest James Bond movie (released this Friday), the classically-trained superstar from Missouri concludes her British tour with a concert here
Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex (0181-900 1234). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** is joined by the Canadian percussion ensemble **Nexus** in a performance of Toru Takemitsu's *From Me Flows What You Call Time*. Also on the programme are Ravel's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales* and Berlioz's extravagant *Symphonie Fantastique*. Mark Elder conducts
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

GLASGOW: Natasha Parry plays Beckett's Winnie, eventually embedded up to her neck in earth in **Oh Les Beaux Jours**. Peter Brook's Paris production visits here after its stint in London. Performed in French.

Superstar Sheryl Crow performs at Wembley

Tramway, Albert Drive (0141-227 5511). Tonight-Fri, 8pm ♿

MANCHESTER: Soloists from the European Opera Centre join the **Hallé Orchestra** in the first of three concert performances of Puccini's sublime tragic opera, *Tosca*. Kent Nagano, the Hallé's music director, conducts.
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street (0161-907 9000). Tonight, tomorrow and Sun, 7.30pm. ♿

NEWCASTLE: Jean-Bernard Pommier displays his Gallic flair as he conducts the **Northern Sinfonia** and the Sinfonia Chorus in a programme featuring Mozart's Symphony No 29 in A; *Liebeslieder Walzes* and *Song of Destiny* by Brahms; and Schumann's Symphony No 2.
City Hall, Northumberland Road (0191-261 2606). Tonight, 7.45pm.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Philip Voss plays Shylock for the first time, with Helen Schlesinger as Portia in Gregory Doran's production of **The Merchant Of Venice**.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm. In rep ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Don McCullin (0171-638 8891) . . **British Museum:** Modern Chinese Calligraphy (0171-323 8525) . . **Design Museum:** A tour of bicycle design history (0171-378 6055) . . **Hayward:** Objects of Desire (0171-928 3144) . . **Mall:** Royal Institute of Oil Painters (0171-930 6844) . . **Museum of London:** Bedlam: Custody, care and cure, 1247-1997 (0171-600 3699) . . **National:** Hogarth's Marriage A-la-Mode (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait:** Sir Henry Raeburn (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy:** Victorian Fairy Painting (0171-439 7438) **Tate**: The Turner Prize 1997 Exhibition (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A**: Carl and Karin Larsson (0171-938 6349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ House full, returns only
- ◩ Some seats available
- ☐ Seats at all prices

◩ **ART**: Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

☐ **BAZAAR**: A Moroccan immigrant in Spain longs to become famous in David Planell's play, part of the New European Writing season. With Adrian Edmondson, Nitzan Sharron and Nicholas Woodeson
Royal Court Upstairs (Ambassadors), West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000). In rep tonight, Dec 13, 16, 19, 8pm

☐ **THE BOYS IN THE BAND**: Mart Crowley's ground-breaking gay play from 1968 now something of a period piece with its "gay means witty but wretched" message. Transfer from the King's Head, Islington
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thur and Sat, 3pm

◩ **CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING**: First big London revival for Arnold Wesker's 1962 play about class discontent and unthinking obedience in the armed forces. With Julian Glover and Rupert Penry-Jones. Directed by Howard Davies who might make the unlikely folksong scene work.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm. Ends Sat

◩ **A DELICATE BALANCE**: Eileen Atkins hauntingly chilling in welcome revival of Albee's play about marriage, parenthood and neighbourliness. Maggie Smith plays the drunk sister. Anthony Page directs
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

◩ **FAME**: TV and film spin-off about young hopefuls from the New York School of the Performing Arts. Touring company in London for ten weeks
Victoria Palace, Victoria St, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Thur, 7.30pm, Fri, 5.30pm and 8pm, Sat, 3pm and 7.30pm. Until Jan 17

◩ **A GRAND NIGHT OUT**: Wallace and Gromit take to the stage for Christmas, pursued to London by the Penguin, escaped from gaol and bent on revenge. Nick Park's characters put through their paces by the Thunderbirds FAB team.
Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, WC2 (0171-494 5090). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. From Dec 19 mats almost daily

■ **HERITAGE**: George Cole plays a military pensioner in a London retirement home, with Tim Pigott-Smith and Gwen Taylor as his son and daughter, each adrift at a time of change. Mark Rayment directs new play by Stephen Churchett, author of *Tom and Clem*
Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm. ♿

☐ **THE MAGISTRATE**: Ian Richardson plays the much harassed hero of Pinero's evergreen farce. Nicholas Broadhurst's cast from Chichester includes Graham Crowden, Abigail McKern, Frank Middlemass and John Padden
Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

☐ **THE SLOW DRAG**: Jazz musical by Carson Kreitzer, loosely based on the story of Billy Tipton, a woman who passed as a man to find work as a jazz musician. Liza Sadovy joins Kim Criswell and Christopher Colquhoun from Lisa Forrell's Freedom Cafe production earlier this year.
Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Mon-Thur, 9pm, Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm.

LONG RUNNERS

◩ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . . ◩ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) . . ◩ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . . ◩ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . ◩ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . ◩ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . ◩ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE BORROWERS** (U): Minuscule scavengers fight for their home. Exhilarating family film, much adapted from the children's classic. With John Goodman, Jim Broadbent. Director, Peter Hewitt.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ♿ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **COP LAND** (15): Lazy sheriff ponders what to do about corrupt cops. Flawed but absorbing drama, with Sylvester Stallone, Harvey Keitel, Robert De Niro. Director, James Mangold
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U): Frank Capra's American classic, revived in a new print. With James Stewart as the doubting do-gooder.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722)

MARIUS ET JEANNETTE (15): Life and love in Marseilles. Inconsequential concoction, weak on plot, strong on local colour. Director, Robert Guediguian
ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470)

PARADISE ROAD (15): Women PoWs in Sumatra keep up their courage by forming a choir. Reasonably uplifting drama, with Glenn Close and Pauline Collins. Director, Bruce Beresford
ABC Shaftesbury Av (0171-836 6279)

THIS WORLD, THEN THE FIREWORKS (18): Callous, over-stylised film noir about twin siblings in crime, with Billy Zane and Gina Gershon. Director, Michael Oblowitz.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

CURRENT

◆ **ALIEN RESURRECTION** (18): Sigourney Weaver's Ripley returns to combat more aliens in a jaunty sequel that ultimately gets out of hand. With Winona Ryder
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **THE FULL MONTY** (15): Unemployed steelworkers strip for cash. Bouncy British comedy, with Robert Carlyle, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** ♿ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0181-970 6015)

◆ **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL** (18): Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET** (PG): Brad Pitt finds enlightenment in 1940s Tibet, but what about us? Handsome but muddled drama, with David Thewlis
Empire (0990 888990) ♿ **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

UNDER THE SKIN (18): Powerful British first feature exploring the shock of grief. With Samantha Morton.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

Sweet with touch of sour

DEE CONWAY

The teenage doll (Belinda Hernandez) and Robot (Neil Westmoreland) entertain the kiddies at the Christmas party

The Nutcracker
Coliseum

English National Ballet has plenty of reasons to cherish the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. As the company's patron for eight years, she helped to raise the company's profile and bolster its spirits. More than just a name on the letterhead, she took a real interest in the daily life of the company, often popping in to ENB's headquarters just across the road from Kensington Palace. There she would chat to dancers and wardrobe staff, sit in on rehearsals, or enjoy a private ballet class in the company's studios.

All this we were told in a ten-minute filmed tribute to the "dancing princess" which launched ENB's inaugural Christmas season at the Coliseum on Monday night. The occasion also marked the London premiere of the company's new *Nutcracker*, a production made possible because Diana intervened to secure generous sponsorship from Harrods.

The new staging is, on the whole, fairly conventional. Artistic director Derek Deane has updated the story to the 1990s and given it a grown-up psychological twist, but otherwise leaves the familiar goodies intact. His most radical move is to try to develop the character of Drosselmeyer by ascribing to him a complex set of motives. The enigmatic magician can't seem to make up his mind when it comes to dealing with his goddaughter, Clara. One minute Drosselmeyer is warmly avuncular, the next he is leering at her like an old lecher and directing overtly sexual body language at her. Deane never resolves the conundrum, and it jars.

The designer, Sue Blane, also enjoys a mixed success. She achieves a chic contrast in Act I's Christmas Eve party — skimpy black cocktail dresses and all-white furniture — but disappoints in a transformation scene that fails to satisfy the urge for spectacle. For Act II Blane lets down her guard, dazzling us in the Kingdom of the Sweets with a blinding array of candy and colour and some of the gaudiest pink frocks ever seen in a ballet.

As for the choreography, there is a real streak of determination in Deane's movement language. The party guests have never worked harder, the Snowflakes have never been more adamant, and step for step this is one of the busiest of all *Nutcrackers*.

Tamara Rojo was an exceptionally pretty Clara on opening night, and captured the emotional rush of a young girl on the cusp of sexual maturity. Italy's Roberto Bolle, as the Prince, was handsome enough to stir any young girl's blood, while Greg Horsman, despite the limitations of Drosselmeyer, revealed a true flair for character dancing. Lucia Lacarra, the Spanish guest artist taking the roles of Sugar Plum and the Ice Queen, danced with great elasticity but not enough strength — her ankles are like butter. Happy times in the pit where Patrick Flynn conducted a robust account of the score.

DEBRA CRAINE

Live-wire nostalgia

JAZZ

Billy Jenkins/LEGO
Bracknell

TWENTY years ago, Roger Ruskin Spear would arrive at jazz and alternative music venues with his Kinetic Wardrobe; a van-load of robots progressively set into jerky, repetitive, musical motion until all of them whirred away at once.

The robot named Bogo, who appears with the London Electric Guitar Orchestra, is less versatile than Spear's, his party tricks restricted to blinking lights, but the playing of the automatons is successfully recreated by the members of the orchestra themselves.

This is a band locked in the avant-garde ideals of that era, except that the strict performance art masks slipped often enough to let in a self-mocking humour and occasional creative whimsy. Their most effective moments were a long Dadaesque recitation, and a tribute to Bonnie George Campbell that involved seven interesting things to do simultaneously with a wine glass and an amplified guitar.

What transformed the evening was the participation of Billy Jenkins, who played the first set and brought his thoroughly contemporary brand of musical humour into the orchestra at the close.

Jenkins has plenty of practice at the short, cameo appearance where an impact needs to be made immediately. He had to work his small audience hard to get through the initial applause barrier, but thereafter his sequence of short solos, each on a different member of the guitar family, was masterly.

The famous Jenkins top-knot was released for a one-man heavy metal excursion; he produced some authentic bottle-neck sounds on a well-preserved Woolworth's special from the 1960s and he borrowed an audience member's spectacles for a single-handed recreation of Hank B. Marvin and the Shadows.

Casually mixed with the playing were asides, and the ability to adapt the music immediately to events in the audience, one latecomer being accompanied to his seat by a spur-of-the-moment vamp. Jenkins's abilities as a guitarist are often submerged in appearances with his own bands, where he has more often been the centre of everyone else's musical activity than able to shine on his own, and his semi-acoustic *I Ain't Got Nobody* reminded the crowd of his solo talents.

Back in his more familiar role as a member of the ensemble he closed with a wickedly accurate parody of Butch Morris's recent Conduction tour. Needless to say, it was far more entertaining than the real thing.

ALYN SHIPTON

Thinking man rocks

POP

Joe Jackson
Queen Elizabeth Hall

FOR someone who had announced his "retirement" from the pop world several years ago, Joe Jackson swung straight into his old hit *It's Different for Girls* with gusto. He followed it with *Is She Really Going Out With Him?* and with considerable enthusiasm for almost an hour gave us a splendid resumé of his career to date.

All of his best-known songs were played in chronological order, mostly solo at the keyboard but occasionally augmented by a violin. There were interesting digressions too, including a musicological deconstruction of *Danny Boy* that betrayed his Royal Academy training and, on *Hometown*, a duet with a transistor radio playing Pachelbel's Canon.

But the real interest lay in the second half of the show, in which Jackson unveiled to a British audience his most recent work, *Heaven and Hell*. It is an ambitious piece of modern composition portraying in musical form the seven deadly sins.

In September I saw the work in New York with the full cast, which included the soprano Dawn Upshaw, the brilliant violinist and enfant terrible of American classical music, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, the singer Jane Siberry and other performers from both pop and classical worlds. For financial and logistical reasons, the QEH saw just Jackson and two additional singers and musicians, the versatile Valerie Vagoda and Elise Morris. This meant that there was a heavy reliance on digital orchestrations, computer loops and drum machines. Inevitably some of the impact was lost, but the slimmed-down versions stood up surprisingly well, only occasionally lapsing into the realm of a 1970s prog-rock concept album.

The trio format worked best on *Angel*, depicting lust, in which the two women's voices contrasted dramatically as the different archetypes of Virgin and Whore. *Passacaglia/A Bud and a Slice*, which deals with anger, is the lone out-and-out rock composition and suffered most from the pared-down format. It is meant to feature three live drummers and the computers were no substitute. More successful was *Tuzla*, a clever depiction of avarice based on war profiteering in Bosnia, in which Jackson sang into a field telephone.

Heaven and Hell is a brave effort to deal with serious subject matter in an intelligent fashion that transcends the boundaries of rock and classical forms. Full marks to Jackson for trying something different. Despite its flaws, the work is among the more successful of such crossovers.

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Convict cannot sue over crime prevention

Clunis v Camden and Islington Health Authority

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Potter and Mrs Justice Bracewell

[Judgment December 5]

A plaintiff who had been convicted of a serious criminal offence could not on the ground of public policy sue a health authority for negligence in failing to treat him properly and thus to prevent him committing the offence, unless it could be shown that he did not know the nature and quality of his act or that what he had done was wrong.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the defendants, Camden and Islington Health Authority, from the dismissal of their application by Mr Richard Mawrey, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge (*The Times* December 27, 1996) to strike out the claim brought against them by the plaintiff, Christopher Clunis, as *disclosing no cause of action.*

The plaintiff was charged with murder but that was reduced to manslaughter because of his mental disorder. However, his mental state did not justify a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity. Consequently, although his responsibility for the killing was diminished, he had to be taken to have known what he was doing and that it was wrong.

A plea of diminished responsibility accepted that the accused's mental responsibility was substantially impaired but did not remove liability for his criminal act. It was not considered that a court could or should go behind the conviction nor had there been anything in the medical evidence which would have justified the view that the plaintiff had no responsibility for the serious crime to which he had pleaded guilty.

Mr Stephen Irwin and Mr Jonathan Glasson for Mr Clunis; Mr John Grace, QC and Mr Andrew Grubb for the health authority.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM, giving the judgment of the court, said that the plaintiff, who had a history of mental illness, was discharged from hospital into the care of the defendant health authority on September 24, 1992. After failing to keep four appointments made by the doctor responsible for his care, the plaintiff, in a sudden unprovoked attack, killed a man by stabbing him at Finsbury Park Underground Station on December 17, 1992.

In his statement of claim, the plaintiff contended that he had suffered, injury, loss and damage because the health authority were negligent and responsible for breach of a duty at common law to treat him with reasonable care and skill.

It was alleged, among other matters, that the doctor responsible for his care failed to arrange a mental health assessment of him before November 30, 1992 and failed to ensure that an urgent mental health assessment was carried out before he committed manslaughter on December 17.

Mr Irwin submitted that the maxim *ex turpi causa non oritur actio* [no right of action arises from a base cause] did not apply to actions founded on tort.

Of that maxim Lord Justice Lindley in *Scott v Brown, Doering, McNab & Co* ([1892] 2 QB 724, 728) had said: "This old and well known legal maxim is founded in good sense, and expresses a clear and well recognised legal principle, which is not confined to indictable offences. No court ought to enforce an illegal contract or allow itself to be made the instrument of enforcing obligations alleged to arise out of a contract or transaction which is illegal, if the illegality is brought to the notice of the court, and if the person invoking the aid of the court is himself implicated in the illegality. It matters not whether the defendant has pleaded the illegality or whether he has not. If the evidence adduced by the plaintiff proves the illegality the court ought not to assist him."

In *Colburn v Patmore* ([1834] 1 Cr, M and R 73, 83) Lord Lyndhurst, Chief Baron, had said: "I know of no case in which a person who has committed an act declared by the law to be criminal, has been permitted to recover compensation against a person who has acted jointly with him in the commission of the crime.

"It is not necessary to give any opinion on this point; but I may say, that I entertain little doubt that a person who is declared by the law to be guilty of a crime cannot be allowed to recover damages against another who has participated in its commission."

The argument was even more pertinent if the claim to damages was against someone who had not participated in the crime. The rule stated by Lord Mansfield, Chief Justice, in *Holman v Johnson* ([1775] 1 Cowp 341, 343) was a rule of public policy that: "No court will lend its aid to a man who founds his cause of action upon an immoral or illegal act."

Their Lordships did not consider that the public policy that the court would not lend its aid to a litigant who relied on his own criminal or immoral act was confined to particular causes of action.

Although Mr Irwin asserted that the plaintiff's cause of action did not depend upon proof that he had been guilty of manslaughter, the claim against the defendant authority was founded on the assertion that the manslaughter was the kind of act that the doctor responsible for his care ought reasonably to have foreseen and that breaches of duty by the defendant authority caused the plaintiff to kill.

Mr Irwin submitted that not all criminal acts would prevent a court entertaining a plaintiff's claim. He prayed in aid in that regard a test which the Court of Appeal had adopted in other cases between 1986 and 1994, namely whether the result in any particular case would be acceptable to the public conscience.

In *Tinsley v Milligan* ([1994] 1 AC 340) Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Browne-Wilkinson regarded such a test as unsatisfactory.

Lord Goff preferred to accept the reason for the rule stated by Lord Justice Ralph Gibson in the Court of Appeal in that case in that, in so far as the maxim was directed at deterrence, the force of the deterrent effect was in the existence of the known rule and its stern application.

Lord Goff had said (at p363): "But bearing in mind the passage from the judgment of Lord Justice Ralph Gibson which I have just quoted, I have to say that it is by no means self evident that the public conscience test is preferable to the present strict rules.

"Certainly I do not feel able to say that it would be appropriate for your Lordships' House, in the face of a long line of unbroken authority stretching back over 200 years, now by judicial decision to replace the principles established in those authorities by a wholly discretionary system."

The only case cited to suggest that the court would entertain a claim to recover damages based on a plaintiff's conviction of a criminal offence knowingly committed was *Meah v Creamer (No 1)* ([1985] 1 All ER 367).

There the plaintiff who had suffered a head injury in a road accident was held to be entitled to damages which arose from his subsequent conviction of two offences of rape.

Subsequently, in *Meah v Creamer (No 2)* ([1986] 1 All ER 983), he was held not to be entitled to claim as damages sums he had been ordered to pay in compensation to the rape victims.

At the first hearing the judge, Mr Justice (now Lord) Woolf, recorded that it had not been argued on behalf of the defendant that the plaintiff was not entitled to be compensated for having committed the crimes and was entitled to receive substantial damages in respect of that claim.

While any decision of Lord Woolf had to be given the greatest weight, their Lordships did not consider that, in the absence of argument on the issue of public policy, his decision in *Meah v Creamer (No 1)* could be regarded as authoritative on that issue.

Their Lordships considered that the defendants had made out their plea that the plaintiff's claim was essentially based on his illegal act of manslaughter. The court ought not to allow itself to be made an instrument to enforce obligations alleged to arise out of the plaintiff's own criminal act and the appeal would be allowed on that ground.

Solicitors: Thanki Novy Taube; Beachcroft Stanleys.

Exemption from VAT for credit arrangements

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Civil Service Motoring Association

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment November 25]

The exemption from value-added tax for the making of arrangements for any transaction for the granting of credit in Group 5 of Schedule 6 to the Value Added Tax Act 1983 was not restricted to activities in relation to particular transactions for the specific grant of credit.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from the dismissal by Mr Justice Sedley on January 24, 1997, of the commissioners' appeal from the decision of the Value Added Tax and Duties Tribunal on March 13, 1996 that the Civil Service Motoring Association was entitled to the benefit of an exemption from VAT under Schedule 6 to the 1983 Act, which implemented article 13B of the Sixth Council Directive EEC/77/388 of May 1977 on the *harmonisation of the laws of the* member states relating to the turnover taxes: common system of value-added tax: uniform basis of assessment (OJ 1977 L145 p1).

Article 13B of the Sixth Directive provides: "... member states shall exempt ... (d) the following transactions: 1 The granting and the negotiation of credit and the management of credit by the person granting it."

Group 5 of Schedule 6 to the 1983 Act exempted from VAT the following items: "Item No ... 2. The making of any advance or the granting of any credit ... 5. The making of arrangements for any transaction comprised in items ... 2"

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for the commissioners; Mr David Milne, QC and Miss Julie Anderson for the association.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the issue whether the tribunal had properly applied the exemption arose from the supply of services by the association in connection with an "affinity" credit card scheme.

The association negotiated with Frizell Banking Services (FBS) for the introduction to its members to the benefits of the FBS credit card scheme on favourable terms. In consideration for supplying a service to FBS, cooperating with FBS to produce a credit product, the association received commission of 0.25 per cent of all credit transactions between its members and FBS.

Unless exempted under Schedule 6 to the 1983 Act those services were liable to VAT.

The association and FBS worked together in a partnership agreement. There was more than simply a grant by the association to FBS of the right to develop, market and issue an affinity card bearing the association logo with the object of encouraging members to take up that card.

The association was not acting simply as an introducer, but was involved in customer handling, marketing, setting prices, discussing interest rates, negotiating the provision of benefits, providing an arbitration service and holding joint discussions on operational and market issues for the protection of its members.

There was no finding by the tribunal that the association acted as an intermediary to bring members and FBS together in particular transactions for the specific grant of credit.

The critical question was whether the expressions "negotiation of credit"; "making of arrangements for any transaction"; "for the granting of any credit" were to be construed as implicitly restricted to activities in relation to particular transactions for the specific grant of credit.

Neither the purpose nor the context of the exemption justified placing that restricted meaning on the wide general language of the Directive or the 1983 Act.

Both expressions referred to the doing of things antecedent to, and directly leading to the general result of the "granting of any credit".

In some cases intermediaries between principals would be involved in achieving that result. In other cases they would not. It was neither expressly nor impliedly necessary that they should be involved as a condition of the application of the exemption to those who do not actually grant credit.

The activities of the association, in respect of which FBS paid commission, could reasonably and sensibly be described as the negotiation of, or making arrangements for any transaction for the grant of credit.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE, agreeing, said that the tribunal's statement of decision ran to 21 pages but did not contain any clear findings of fact on the critical issues.

It was the duty of a fact finding tribunal to set out clearly the relevant facts and make findings upon the disputed questions of fact.

That was necessary for two main reasons: first, the parties were entitled to know why they had won or lost; second, where there was a right of appeal, particularly on a point of law, it was essential to the exercise of the right of appeal and its determination that the facts should have been found by the tribunal from which the appeal was brought.

In every case the tribunal should distinguish between the recitation of the evidence and the findings of fact and be sure to make clear and adequate findings of fact.

Lord Justice Pill agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Crockers.

Court can order disclosure with safeguards

In re Galileo Group Ltd

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment November 13]

On an application by a liquidator under section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986, the court was not, in principle, precluded from ordering the disclosure by persons not within section 82(1)(a) of the Banking Act 1987 of relevant contents of a report produced pursuant to section 39 of that Act, provided that any material embargoed by section 82 had been removed.

However, in such circumstances, it should exercise its jurisdiction with extreme caution and should bear in mind a number of factors, including the possibility that such an order might undermine the protection afforded by section 82 and prejudice the free flow of information to the Bank of England, as well as the difficulty of redacting the documents satisfactorily.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in the Chancery Division, in dismissing an application by the liquidator of Galileo Group Ltd for an order under section 236 of the 1986 Act against Hambros Bank Ltd for disclosure of a report by Norton Rose produced on Hambros' behalf pursuant to section 39 of the 1987 Act and of transcripts of interviews used in compiling that report and against the interviewees for transcripts of their interviews.

Mr Matthew Collings for the liquidator; Mr Richard Adkins, QC and Mr William Trower for Hambros; Mr Mark Phillips for the Bank of England, intervener.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that Galileo Group had retained Hambros as its financial adviser in relation to its proposed bid to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

The bid was abandoned when it emerged that Galileo and Hambros, among others, had been in receipt of confidential information relating to the affairs of the society.

Galileo went into voluntary liquidation. Hambros had not been paid in full for its services, but had not yet sought to prove for the sums owed. The liquidator wished to determine, inter alia, whether he was bound in law to repay the outstanding bills of the advisers. He applied under section 236 for the production of the report and transcripts.

The report delved deeply into the internal workings of Hambros and dealt with many matters of concern to the Bank but of no legitimate interest to the liquidator.

The issue before the court was whether it was precluded from making an order for disclosure under section 236 by the provisions of the 1987 Act, and, if not, whether the court should exercise its discretion to make the order.

His Lordship set out section 82 of the 1987 Act, made some preliminary observations about its application and considered the relevant authorities.

The starting point was that section 82 placed an embargo on any information obtained by Norton Rose so far as it was communicated to Hambros and the interviewees.

Nothing in section 82 prevented Hambros and the interviewees from disclosing to the liquidator what they already knew. What they had to be most careful to avoid, however, was disclosure of any supplement to that knowledge furnished by Norton Rose.

His Lordship concluded that section 82 precluded disclosure by Hambros of the entire report or transcripts since it was clear that they contained embargoed information.

Nor did it allow the interviewees to disclose their unedited transcripts, since in the course of the interviews information obtained by Norton Rose had been disclosed to the interviewees in circumstances where they might not have known that was happening.

Accordingly, the issue was whether the report and transcripts could and should be redacted so as to edit out the embargoed material. Section 82 created no bar to that exercise being undertaken. Whether or not it should be ordered was a question to be decided in exercising the jurisdiction under section 236 of the 1986 Act.

His Lordship considered the court's undoubted jurisdiction to order production of redacted documents and said that in cases such as the present concerned with information embargoed by section 82, it was to be exercised with the greatest caution.

There must be taken into account a number of factors, including:

1 The making of such an order might be seen as undermining the protection afforded by section 82; that the possibility of the exercise being required or undertaken might prejudice the free flow of information to the Bank which it was the purpose of section 82 to protect.

2 The difficulty of the exercise, which could only be undertaken by a person with lawful access to the embargoed information.

3 The risk that an erroneous omission to edit out a passage might constitute a criminal offence.

4 The danger that the redacted document might prove misleading by reason of the excisions; and

5 The problems which might be created by such disclosure for, inter alia, a witness at trial faced with a truncated document and required to answer questions on it, yet barred from explaining his answers by reference to the passages omitted.

Section 236 required the court to strike a balance between the liquidator's reasonable requirements and the need to avoid making an order which was unreasonable, unnecessary or oppressive to the person concerned.

His Lordship was not satisfied that the liquidator reasonably required the exercise to be undertaken and was clear that any need was more than counterbalanced by the considerations weighing against the making of the order sought. Accordingly, his Lordship dismissed the application.

Solicitors: Wilde Sapte; Slaughter & May; Freshfields.

Xmas trees not a woodland

Jaggers (trading as Shide Trees) v Ellis (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment November 11]

A plantation of Christmas trees was not a woodland and the profits from it were not excepted from the charge to income tax imposed by section 53 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mrs Deidre Jaggers, trading as Shide Trees, from the determination of a special commissioner (Mr T. H. K. Everett) upholding assessments to income tax under Case I of Schedule D for years from 1990-91 to 1995-96.

Section 53 of the 1988 Act provides "(3) ... the occupation of land ... for any purpose other than farming or market gardening shall, if the land is managed on a commercial basis and with a view to the realisation of profits, be treated as the carrying on of a trade ... and the profits or gains thereof shall be charged to tax under Case I of Schedule D..."

Subsection (4), as substituted by paragraph 6(7) of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 1988, provides: "Subsection (3) above shall not apply in relation to the occupation of land which comprises woodlands..."

Miss Aparna Nathan for the taxpayer; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that since 1990 the taxpayer had grown Christmas trees, Norway Spruce, Noble Fir and Caucasian Fir, on a nine-acre site on the Isle of Wight. Most were sold at heights between four and seven feet.

"Woodlands" and "forestry" were not statutorily defined in the Act. They were not words of art, but words in common usage.

The special commissioner said that he had come to his decision, that the site was not an area of woodlands, based to a large extent on impression. The site was not used for timber production. The taxpayer could only challenge the commissioner's determination if she could establish that on any reasonable use of the English language the plantation fell within the description "woodlands".

The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defined "woodland" as *land covered with wood, that is,* trees; a wooded region or piece of ground. It could be either natural or cultivated and might be intended for use for the production of timber or for the provision of an amenity. The term connoted a wood, a sizeable area of land to a significant extent covered by growing trees of some maturity, height and size.

The plantation did not strike the commissioner as woodlands and probably would not strike anyone acquainted with the English language as a wood or woodlands. The general impression of the site, supported by photographs, was of a nursery rather than a wood. The commissioner's judgment was plainly correct. Most certainly it was not irrational of him to have reached his conclusion.

Solicitors: Cohen & Naicker, Maida Vale; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Bond money repayable where no damage is suffered

Cargill International SA and Another v Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment November 19]

Money paid under a performance bond to a party who had suffered no damage was recoverable.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an interlocutory appeal brought by the buyer, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, against the decision of Mr Justice Morison ([1996] 4 All ER 563) that although the buyer was entitled to make a call for the full amount of the bond, if the buyer had suffered no loss as a result of the breach by the seller, Cargill International SA, any money received under the bond was recoverable by the seller.

Mr Ajmalul Hossain for the buyer; Mr Stephen Males for the seller.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that the seller agreed to sell sugar to the buyer by a contract dated June 16, 1994. Clause 13 provided under the heading "Performance Bond": "The seller has already submitted a performance bond to the buyer in the form of bank guarantee equivalent to 10 per cent of the total offered C & F (C) [cost, freight and commission] value of ... sugar. The performance bond is liable to be forfeited by the buyer if the seller fails to fulfil any of the terms and conditions of this contract ... and also if any loss/damage occurs to the buyer due to any fault of the seller."

The preliminary issues which had to be determined were, on the assumption that the seller was in breach of contract:

1 Whether the buyer was entitled to make a call for the full amount of the performance bond, if the breach or breaches of contract (a) caused no loss to the buyer; (b) caused some loss which was less than the amount of the performance bond; (c) caused some loss which was equal to or greater than the amount of the performance bond.

2 Whether, in the event of the buyer having obtained payment under the bond as a result of any such call as it was entitled to make, the buyer was entitled to retain (a) all of the money received by it; (b) only such amount as was equal to the amount of the loss suffered by it; or (c) some other, and if so what, amount.

Mr Justice Morison found that on a proper construction of clause 13 there was no indication that it was the parties' intention that the bond would either satisfy the whole of the buyer's damages or prevent the seller from recovering any overpayment.

If it had been the intention of the parties to produce a result whereby the buyer could both call on the bond and sue for damages, whereas the seller forfeited his right to any overpayment, much plainer words would have been required.

Mr Justice Morison treated the two parts of the clause disjunctively. Thus the buyer was stipulating that as between himself and the seller, all he needed to show to be entitled to call on the bond was a breach of contract.

If, on the other hand, damage was caused to the buyer then the right to call the bond was conferred by the second half of the clause.

In either event there would be an accounting at trial or arbitration to ensure that the buyer had not been underpaid or overpaid. Thus he answered the first question "Yes" in all cases and "(b)" to the second.

In his Lordship's judgment, the true purpose of clause 13 was to define as between the parties the circumstances in which the buyer was entitled to make a call on the bond, a matter upon which the bond itself was silent.

As between the parties to the sale contract the word "forfeited", as applied to the bond, was not to be read as an indication that the moneys paid over would be irrevocably lost by the seller in all circumstances.

Rather, it was to be read as a shorthand for the buyer's right to call upon the bank for payment on its bond as a matter of primary obligation.

The exercise of that right did not, in the absence of clear words indicating a contrary intention, preclude the seller's subsequent right to recover from the buyer any sum which represented overpayment in respect of the buyer's damage once such damage was ascertainable.

The use of the word "forfeited", construed in its contractual and commercial context, did not amount to such a contrary indication.

His Lordship considered that Mr Justice Morison was correct and he would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed and Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Beale & Co; Middleton Potts.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Allowance cannot be exported

Snares v Adjudication Officer

Case C-20/96

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. Gulmann, H. Ragnemalm, M. Wathelet, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann and L. Sevón

Advocate General P. Léger

(Opinion May 6)

[Judgment November 4]

A recipient of disability living allowance was no longer entitled to the allowance after he took up residence in another member state of the European Community.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities gave judgment on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Social Security Commissioner for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation and validity of provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 of June 14, 1971 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community, as consolidated in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2001/83 of June 2, 1983 (OJ 1983 230 p6) and subsequently amended.

The provisions at issue were articles 4(2a) and 10a, inserted by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1247/92 of April 30, 1992 (OJ 1992 L136 p1), which entered into force on June 1, 1992.

Disability living allowance, which was non-contributory and non-means tested, was provided for by the Disability Living Allowance and Disability Working Allowance Act 1991.

At the material time it was payable in accordance with the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 and the Social Security (Disability Living Allowance) Regulations 1991.

The effect of section 71(6) of the 1992 Act and regulation 2 of the 1991 Regulations was that the allowance was only payable to a person who was ordinarily resident in Great Britain and present there apart from temporary absences.

In April 1993 the applicant suffered an accident which left him with severely impaired mobility. He applied for and was granted disability living allowance.

In November 1993 the applicant left the United Kingdom permanently to settle in Tenerife with his family and payment of disability living allowance was thereon terminated.

In appeal proceedings, the central issue was whether article 10a of Regulation 1408/71 was effective to set aside, in the circumstances of the case, the principle of exportability of social security benefits laid down in article 10(1) of the regulation.

Article 10(1) provided: "Save as otherwise provided in this Regulation, invalidity ... benefits ... shall not be subject to any reduction, modification, suspension, withdrawal or confiscation by reason of the fact that the recipient resides in the territory of a member state other than that in which the institution responsible for payment is located."

Article 4(2a) provides: "This Regulation shall ... apply to special non-contributory benefits..."

Article 10a(1) provides: "Notwithstanding the provisions of article 10 ... persons to whom this Regulation applies shall be granted the special non-contributory cash benefits referred to in article 4(2a) exclusively in the territory of the member state in which they reside, in accordance with the legislation of that state, provided that such benefits are listed in Annex IIa..."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

In terms of article 10a of Regulation 1408/71, the persons to whom that regulation applied were entitled to the special non-contributory cash benefits referred to in article 4(2a), in accordance with the coordination rules which it set out, provided that the benefits were listed in Annex IIa.

Disability living allowance was so listed, in point (f) of section L.

The fact that the Community legislature referred to legislation, such as that relating to disability living allowance in Annex IIa, *must be accepted as establishing* that benefits granted pursuant to that legislation were special non-contributory benefits falling within the scope of article 10a.

Further, the wording of article 10a implied that the benefits to which it referred also came within article 4(2a).

In those circumstances, a benefit such as disability living allowance was exclusively governed by the coordination rules of article 10a.

It was common ground that a person such as the applicant whose disability occurred after the entry into force of Regulation 1247/92, inserting articles 4(2a) and 10a into Regulation 1408/71, came exclusively within the scope of the latter provisions and could not rely on the transitional provisions in article 2 of Regulation 1247/92, by which that regulation did not affect the maintenance of rights of individuals who were already receiving or entitled to the benefit before the entry into force of the regulation.

The question was asked whether the relevant provisions of Regulation 1247/92 were valid, in the light of various articles of the EC Treaty.

In relation to special non-contributory benefits such as those at issue, the principle of the exportability of social security benefits in article 10(1) of Regulation 1408/71 only applied so long as derogating provisions had not been adopted by the Community legislature.

Moreover, the grant of benefits closely linked with the social environment could be made subject to a condition of residence in the state of the competent institution.

Benefits such as disability living allowance fell within the category of benefits which, as regards the detailed rules for granting them, were closely linked to a particular economic and social context.

Further, in the absence of harmonisation in social security matters, the member states remained competent to define the conditions for granting social security benefits, even if they made them more strict, provided that the conditions adopted did not give rise to overt or disguised discrimination between Community workers.

For those and other reasons stated by the court, there were no grounds for impugning the validity of Regulation 1247/92 to the relevant extent.

The European Court ruled:

1 On a proper construction of article 10a of Regulation 1408/71 as amended, read in conjunction with Annex IIa, disability living allowance fell within the scope of that provision and was therefore a special non-contributory benefit within the meaning of article 4(2a) of that regulation, with the result that the position of a person such as the applicant, who, after June 1, 1992 when Regulation 1247/92 entered into force, satisfied the conditions for the award of that benefit, was governed exclusively by the system of coordination established by article 10a.

2 Examination of Regulation 1247/92, in so far as it set aside, in the case of disability living allowance, the principle of waiver of residence clauses laid down in article 10 of Regulation 1408/71, had not disclosed any factor of such a kind as to affect its validity.

Ignorance of nature of weapon no excuse

Regina v Densu

Before Lord Justice Henry, Mr Justice Gage and Judge Tucker, QC

[Judgment November 7]

Where an accused person was charged with having an offensive weapon in a public place, a claim that he did not know that the article in question was an offensive weapon could not amount to the defence of reasonable excuse within the meaning of section 1(1) of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Felix Densu against his conviction on a plea of guilty to having an offensive weapon contrary to section 1(1) of the 1953 Act, after an adverse ruling by Judge Pratt on January 31, 1997, at Croydon Crown Court. He was conditionally discharged for two years and ordered to pay £75 costs.

Section 1 of the 1953 Act provides: "(1) Any person who without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on him, has with him in any public place any offensive weapon shall be guilty of an offence..."

Mr Andrew Evans, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Miss Sally Thompson for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE GAGE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant had been involved in a road traffic accident to which the police were called.

They found on the floor beside the driver's seat of the appellant's car a metal telescopic extendible baton. It was common ground that that baton, known as an asp, was an offensive weapon per se. The appellant's explanation was that he had found the baton in a car which he had valeted and was told that it was an aerial. He had used it as a lever for his trolley jack but had not seen it in its extended form and did not know that it was a weapon. On those facts the judge had ruled that he had no defence.

Their Lordships were unable to accept counsel's submissions that lack of knowledge was a matter capable of founding a reasonable excuse defence. The defence of reasonable excuse only arose once it was accepted and proved that a defendant was in possession of an offensive weapon.

The question then for the jury was whether the defendant had a reasonable excuse for having with him that offensive weapon. As a matter of principle it could not be possible for a defendant to argue, once found to have had with him an offensive weapon, that he did not know it was an offensive weapon.

The Act was aimed at eradicating the carrying of dangerous weapons in public. The whole purpose of the Act was to provide strict liability in respect of objects regarded as dangerous.

To allow lack of knowledge to be raised as a reasonable excuse defence defeated the purpose of imposing strict liability in respect of the possession of such a weapon, where the object was an offensive weapon per se. It was not permissible to combine lack of knowledge with an explanation for use of the weapon so as to provide a reasonable excuse.

Solicitors, Crown Prosecution Service, Croydon.

Molluscs harvested outside area

Regina v Stone

The prohibition on placing live bivalve molluscs on the market for human consumption if harvested outside designated production areas applied regardless of whether such consumption was immediate.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Henry Mr Justice Gage and Judge Tucker, QC) so held on November 5 when dismissing the appeal of Michael James Roy Stone against his conviction on April 8, 1997 at Southampton Crown Court (Mr Recorder Donne, QC and a jury) of placing on the market for human consumption live bivalve molluscs not produced or harvested from a designated bivalve production area, contrary to regulations 6 and 18 of the Food Safety (Live Bivalve Molluscs and Other Shellfish) Regulations (SI 1992 No 3164).

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that the defendant had argued that regulation 6 of the 1992 Regulations prohibited putting molluscs on the market for immediate human consumption only, and that the word "immediate" had been omitted by mistake.

But the omission of the word was deliberate and necessary. If the word had been inserted, then molluscs from the dirtier non-designated areas would be less closely controlled than those from certain designated areas, which were required to be purified before sale, by Schedule 5 to the 1992 Regulations.

The fact that the defendant's molluscs were going to be kept in clean water for six months before being sold was no defence.

Plot plea basis must be plain

Regina v Anderson
Regina v Taberer

It was particularly important in conspiracy cases to make plain the basis of a plea, for example whether it was a plea of guilty to the overall conspiracy but with limited actual participation in any crimes committed pursuant to it or *limited involvement in the conspiracy itself,* for example by joining late or leaving early.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Buckley and Mrs Justice Hale) so stated on November 7 in a reserved judgment allowing the appeals of Lee Anderson and Lee Kenneth Taberer and reducing to 13 and 12 years respectively the sentence of 15 years imprisonment imposed by Judge Owen on November 5, 1996 at Manchester Crown Court, following their pleas on re-arraignment of guilty to conspiracy to rob.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the basis of the appellants' pleas was agreed with the prosecution, the intention being to treat the appellants as if the pleas had been to separate substantive counts or, at the most, to a conspiracy covering only the robberies which they participated in, there being other co-defendants.

It seemed that that was not made clear to the judge and was not the basis upon which he sentenced.

Their Lordships emphasised the importance, particularly in difficult conspiracy cases, of drafting the basis of pleas with great care. Counsel and the court should ensure that all were ad idem. If necessary the indictment should be amended.

3

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A DOCUMENT spilling on to a new page by a few lines can be annoying: there is a shrink to fit facility in Microsoft Word's Print Preview mode — the button is on the bottom row of the toolbar.

This can make everything look too cramped and you might want to undo it. If you haven't saved the document, hold down the Control key and press Z. This doesn't work if you have already saved the document but there is an emergency measure you can take: hold down the Control key and press A. This will *select all the text. Then* choose Format/Font, and change the font size.

This will also change the size of any headings you've inserted in a different point size to the text, but it may be more simple to go through the document highlighting them, rather than highlighting the text around them and changing its size. And you can always write a macro to automate the process.

You could also avoid this problem by making a copy of the original document before you shrink-fit it, using File/Save As.

Susan MacDonald on the increasing need for multilingual secretaries, especially from foreign banks and European law firms

Demand grows for language skills

With much fanfare, the British Government is preparing to take over the presidency of the European Union on January 1 — and there has been a last-minute scramble to brush up on languages.

About 150 ministers and civil servants have signed up for crash courses in French, but civil servants organising Britain's six-month term of office believe that unless their French really is up to standard it would be better to speak in English for business purposes. Even Tony Blair has been told: "Your French is good, but not that good."

This is something that multilingual secretaries know already. Companies employing multilingual secretaries require linguistic excellence — and often a good commercial knowledge of the foreign language they speak. In addition to this language knowledge, these super secretaries should have excellent IT skills and a knowledge of the company's area of work.

And despite all this, multilingual secretaries sometimes earn much the same salaries as non-linguistic secretaries. Hazel Cook and Sarah Spyles, two multilingual secretaries with large organisations in London, agree that their salaries do not reflect their prowess in languages. On the other hand, Babette Grolman, who also works in London, says that hers has always reflected the fact that she speaks several languages.

Ms Cook, 29, speaks French and German. On leaving university with a modern languages degree, she took a secretarial course. She spent nine months working as a secretary in Munich and then went as a secretary to Brussels for four years. She learnt Italian at evening classes while there.

She returned to England six months ago and now works as a PA for Société Générale in the City. "It is in London that the need for multilingual secretaries is greatest, especially among foreign banks and European law firms," she says. "My main aim has been to use my language knowledge as much as possible and I realised that taking a secretarial course was a way of doing this. I feel there is a lot of scope for development in the bank."

ALAN WELLER

Babette Grolman's command of German, English and Italian is reflected in her bank salary

Ms Spyles, 32, who works for a large catering company, speaks Spanish and German. "I have found that pay is based on the level of the person you are working for and not on your own skills," she says. "Many employers do not appreciate what they have. It is not just a question of being excellent at languages, but of understanding other cultures so that you can speak to people as though you came from their country."

After her degree in modern languages, she took a ten-week intensive secretarial course and has done a two-year marketing course. She felt she needed these qualifications because when she left university people said: "All right, you've got languages, but what skills have you got for the job world?"

Neither of them knows foreign shorthand and Ms Grolman, 32, who has worked for two years as a PA and office manager in the London office of Deutsche Hypo bank, does not have shorthand in any language. However, she feels that her command of German, English and Italian is reflected in her salary because she uses them all the time.

Her masters degree in translating specialised in law and she has worked for an American law firm and as a translator. "My languages abilities have always been reflected in my salaries," she says.

Robert House of Language Matters recruitment agency thinks the language market is buoyant and growing. "There has been a 20-40 per cent increase in the past two or three years," he says. French and German are the most sought-after languages, followed by Italian and Spanish. The need for Russian, Japanese, Mandarin and Cantonese speakers is now on the increase — whereas the need for Arabic has fallen off.

Ian Archibald of Multilingual Services recruitment agency says that during the boom of the 1980s there was an increasing need for multilingual secretaries as foreign finance houses set up shop, but the recession hit these secretaries hard as finance houses folded their tents and crept away.

Demand has increased over the past year but companies, he says, are far more demanding in the skills they want in addition to languages than they were in the 1980s.

Apart from supplying secretaries to companies in Britain (especially London), specialist agencies seek secretaries to work in continental Europe. "We mainly supply secretaries for Paris and Frankfurt because they have important finance centres," Mr House says. "The markets in Madrid and Milan are not buoyant enough to produce many opportunities."

To work with languages, people either need to have grown up in a bilingual home or to have been trained to commercial standards. Both agencies agree that more than 90 per cent of those on their books are graduates who learnt their languages at university. This is because the old two-year, post A-level secretarial courses that included in-depth commercial language training have disappeared.

Mr Archibald says: "Some progressive companies provide language training for their secretaries, but, it seems, the number doing so has not increased along with the expansion of the market."

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Tel: 0171 373 3852

LONDON'S PREMIER BUSINESS COLLEGE
A Member of The Corporate Services Group plc

SUPER SECRETARIES

A City/financial PA? £25,000+. Extremely varied role for M.D. with lots of responsibility and organising/liaising. 0171 377 8600, Secretaries Plus, the secretarial consultants.

AMIPRO £20,000 Sec at Director level providing Admin /Sec /Project support, either good Windows or Amipro / Lotus / Freelance. Call 0171-377 6777/fax 377 5079. Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd.

ARCHITECTS & Designers. Permanent & Temporary secretaries urgently req. to work for design practices in London. Maureen 0171 734 0632 Rec Con

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S PA - £25,000. An established property and finance company based in Victoria is looking for a PA to support the CEO of a new international business venture. Along with providing full secretarial support, you will be responsible for co-ordinating extensive corporate hospitality and assist in hosting various events. A min. of 3 years senior secretarial experience is required along with W4W &Excel. Please call Angela Mortimer plc 0171 287 7788.

CITY PA £21,000, rusty Sh at Snr level at leading Stockbroker, lots of Admin/social/VIP contact. Call 0171-377 6777/fax 377 5079. Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd.

EXECUTIVE Secretary temp to perm. TOP salary & benefits package. Challenging opportunity at senior Director level with highly reputable bank. Skills required W4W, Excel, Powerpoint, Email & ideally Lotus Notes. Immed start. 0171 638 7951 Paragon Personnel.

FANTASTIC Opp for high calibre Sec (22-30yrs) £21k +++ word/excel + strong organisation skills for BCB Ins. Co. Call 0171 353 3100.

IMMEDIATE start as PA/HR admin assist in lively W/E co. HR experience & basic French preferred. Good WP skills essential (50wpm). £20,000. Pls call Kate Dowman on 0171 390 7000 Crone Corkhill Multilingual Rec Cons.

KENSINGTON Office - We are a successful venture capital business requiring personal / secretarial support. We need an individual with first-class skills, to include shorthand, audio, typing, working knowledge of WP packages & excellent communication skills to work for three of the principles. Office experience essential, ability and willingness most important. Salary £16,000. Please fax CV to 0171-376-1712.

NASIM ATTALLAH, Publisher, req a Full Time PA/Secretary competative Salary offered. Please apply in writing only C/O Namara House, 45 Pound Street, London W1V 3DF.

OFFICE Manager £26,000 Mayfair. Recruitment of sec/support staff + general admin. duties. Office managerial or Personnel background pref. 25+ Call James on 0171 247 6033 (T.J. Associates)

PA/SEC to Conservative MP, to work in House of Commons. £20,000 + pension. Requires a demanding combination of qualifications and personality. Fax CVs to 0171 731 1785.

PA, 20's-30's with 80+ sh for West end, long term. 0171 493 7001 Secretaries Plus, rec.cons.

PA to semi-retired high-flying TV mogul in his Chelsea home. You will be enthusiastic with an interest in the entertainment world. Previous senior secretarial experience, excellent computer and presentation skills are essential as well as good organisational abilities. Shorthand desirable. 10.30 am - 2.30 pm Mon-Fri. £24,000+ pro rata. Please call Mary Goodall at Angela Mortimer plc (rec cons) on 0171 814 0800

PRESTIGIOUS City Co req PA to partner 21K, ess. Contact Sarv 0171 493 4993.

SENIOR PA req by Intnl. W1 Co. working with 2 top Directors. This involved and varied role requires a calm & well organised PA. A 'blue-chip' background useful. 55wpm WP req. To £24,000 + bens. CF. Agy 0171 306 3196.

BERKELEY SQUARE SECRETARY /RECEPTIONIST

Exciting reception role with prestigious W1 Company. Excellent telephone manner. I.T./Sec skills essential. Salary £18,000 + bens. pkg.
Call: Vicky Whish at Kerr Recruitment
Tel: 0181 998 4086
Fax: 0181 998 0388

LET'S PARTY!

£15,000

Party Planners/Corporate Entertainment Company require sociable, energetic secretary/receptionist for MD. Min 6 mths work experience plus 45wpm typing.

Age early 20's.

NORMA SKEMP REC LTD
TEL: 0171 491 8707

SHORT HOURS c£18,500 (9.30 - 5) based in luxurious Sloane Square offices. Supporting 3 busy & appreciative surveyors. Word for Windows & 50+ typing. Grosvenor Bureau 0171 499 6566 Fax 0171 493 6320

WEALTHY aristocrat needs a PA to help run his life. Being prepared to travel and dedicate your life to your job will be important. Must be a good party organiser. Interest in scuba diving useful. Salary depends on exp. Please fax CV's 0171 734 4905 Sarah Stewart-Smith Rec 0171 734 5965.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Needed to join a team, but to take responsibility for the NANNY DESK. Must have experience in Recruitment, W4W, typing 50 wpm, preferably with an understanding of the world of Nannies. Top package for the right person who needs ambition and a cheerful, quality approach to the working day. January start - telephone Jane Urquhart on 0171 233 9950.

RECEPTION SELECTION

HEADHUNTERS receptionist £18,000 exclusive office. Please fax CV's 0171 734 4905 Sarah Stewart-Smith Rec 0171 734 5965.

RECEP £18K + package. Work for a Co where the people stay! Top communications Co in SW6 needs well presented, welcoming & helpful Recep. Great People, Great salary & Fab package. Age 25-35. Anderson House 0171 824 8821.

RECEPTIONIST £19,000 plus. Elegant newly furb office in Mayfair prop co. A rewarding post with variety & wonderful bus. sense of style & ready smile. A little typing. Age 25 to 35 Max. Ring Lynn Morris 0171 259 6999 Rec Cons Beauchamp Bur.

WELL appointed mature receptionist wanted for busy Harley Street dental practice. Please phone 0171 436 3194.

RECEPTIONIST

Enthusiastic, well presented receptionist required for friendly executive search firm near Victoria. Varied role including switchboard, admin - some typing. Attractive salary & bens. Start Jan (hrs 9 am - 6 pm)
Please send details to Mrs Sophia Glegg, 17 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB
Tel: 0171630 9255

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

HARRINGTON LOWNDES

MANAGER

OTE £50,000 pa

Harrington Lowndes is one of Fulham's premier Independent Estate Agents.
We seek a high profile Sales Manager with relevant experience.
The selected applicant will have sound management skills and the ability to help us achieve our growth and profit targets.
We offer an excellent salary plus benefits and the prospect of an Associate Directorship.
Please send your CV in strict confidence to: Antony Hesselman
HARRINGTON LOWNDES
88 New Kings Road, Fulham, London SW6 4LU
Fax: 0171 731 1101

MEDICAL SECRETARIES

FIRST CLASS PA required ASAP for busy Doctor's surgery SW1, medical exp preferred. 50wpm, windows, sales support role, good interpersonal skills. References essential. Salary £18,000 neg. Please call Tina or Jo on 0171 222 1040 or send CV to 41-43 Great Peter St. London SW1P 3LT

PART TIME VACANCIES

CHARITY Fundraising Urgently needed, 2 people for worthwhile and rewarding work in friendly Fulham offices. Courteous telephone manner and confident personality essential. Commission only. Please phone 0171 581 1597.

Co.Director requires Part Time secretary to work in Central SW London. Varied duties Windows '95 essential Hours of pay neg. Tel: 0171 228 7778

DESK Assistant £12-15,000 Docklands based in US Investment Bank require an administrator to support trading floor team. You will need excellent admin experience including good keyboard skills (Word and Excel) Hours 7.30am-12.30pm Monday to Friday. Please call Sam Garner on 0171 390 7000, Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

EXPERIENCED part time Sec for private work. Knowledge accounts and filing. Salary neg. Box No 9040.

PRIVATE health club receptionist £9,500. Weekends only. Please call Sarah Stewart-Smith Rec 0171 734 5965.

P/Time Administrative/Sec for Kensington Company. Supporting Entrepreneur with 2 business ventures. Good Secretarial skills needed. Flexible hours. 20 hrs per week. £8 per hour. T.J. Office 0171 838 0023.

LEGAL LA CRÈME

LLOYD & ASSOCIATES, Solicitors, req 2 PA's/sec's for its (mostly L/Aid) highly regarded Immigration Dept. £16K CV's to Alex Morton Fax 0171 589 9589 or 48, Onslow Gdns, Lon SW7 3AH

RECEPTION SELECTION

RECEPTIONIST
London Based International Architects
A receptionist is needed to fill this key post in our London Office.
We seek an individual with an attractive personality who is confident with people, has a clear speaking voice and is efficient with a busy telephone switchboard and facsimile machine. Ideally, the candidate should have other European languages to offer although not essential.
Salary circa £15,000 together with supporting package.
Please call Nicola on 0171 371 3000.

QUALITY RECEPTIONISTS..

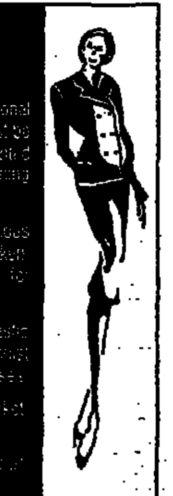
19k - HIGH PROFILE CO - Exceptional Receptionist required by progressive co. Must be professional, polished, immaculately presented with a charming, confident manner. Stunning offices friendly co. 35+ typing.

18k - WEST END - Dynamic prestigious Headhunters urgently require well spoken polished Receptionist. Lots of scope for initiative and problem solving. 35 typ.

18k - FAMOUS ARCHITECTS - Fantastic opp for young, [illegible] well spoken Receptionist [illegible] Battersea.

15k - SLOANE SQUARE - Upmarket bubbly Receptionist for fun Property Co.

[illegible]



KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES
0171-468 0400

هكذا من الأصل

The fun of the cup — and £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a team and win the FA Cup league?

A £10,000 prize is up for grabs for the winner of the brand-new FA Cup league, a league within the ITF.

Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and January 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division teams.

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated. **Any team in the ITF prior to 12 noon on December 13 will automatically receive 20 extra transfers in addition to their current allocation.** Thereafter, all teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. **Entrants must be 18 years or over.**

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if appropriate, in the mini leagues — students' or women's.

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

PREMIERSHIP CLUBS IN FA CUP DRAW

Portsmouth v Aston Villa
Arsenal v Port Vale
Leicester City v Northampton Town or Basingstoke Town
Leeds United v Oxford United
Everton v Newcastle United
Liverpool v Coventry City
West Ham United v Lincoln City or Emley
Derby County v Southampton
Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham
Crystal Palace v Scunthorpe United or Hereford Town
Torquay United or Watford v Sheffield Wednesday
Chelsea v Manchester United
Wimbledon v Wrexham
Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic
Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers
Ties to be played on January 3 and 4.

ITF Terms and conditions: 1. You must enter through the media channel you wish to play by. 2. Entries must comply with the specifications of the team, as listed right. 3. There is no limit to the number of entries a person or household may make. 4. No responsibility is accepted for late or lost entries due to circumstances beyond our control. Indecipherable, inaudible or incomplete entries are null and void with no refund. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry. 5. The ITF committee's decision is final regarding all aspects of ITF. 6. Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). 7. Promotional and explanatory copy relating to *The Times*/The Sunday Times ITF in association with LineOne, the internet and Sky Sports Interactive. 8. Players values will be reassessed at the end of January and March. 9. Official updated players/managers lists will be published in *The Times*. 10. The top prize goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points in the FA Cup league. In the event of there being more than one winner, a tiebreak will operate. These are no monthly prizes. 11. The top prize for the main ITF game goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points throughout the 1997/98 football season. There are also 2nd & 3rd place prizes. In the event of there being more than one winner in any of these positions, a tiebreak will operate. 12. The manager of the month prize will go to the entrant whose team scores the most points in any one month. This applies to the main ITF game, the mini leagues and the internet league. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a winner will be chosen at random. 13. No team will be eligible to win a prize unless they have abided by the competition rules. 14. Scores will count for the English & Scottish premier league and F.A. Cup/Tennents Cup (involving English & Scottish premier league division teams) matches for the 1997/98 season. 15. Calls for entries should take approximately eight minutes. Calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from pay phones cost approximately double. 16. The competition is not open to employees of News International, BSkyB, their relatives, agents or agents' relatives. 17. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points. 18. Full explanations on how your players will score points, how to transfer and how to check your score and position in the league are printed every week in *The Times*. 19. You may also enter a new team by LineOne, the Internet (call 0800 111 210 for details) and by Sky Sports Interactive (Sky Text page 118)

THE ITF FA CUP LEAGUE

£10,000 to the winner

HOW TO PLAY

Study the cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team as follows:
You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) form the same club.
Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your transfer allocation.
You may enter as many teams as you wish.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10 sterling and may only be made by post.

HOW TO ORDER BY TELEPHONE

0891 405 011
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotline, using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and follow the step-by-step instructions. You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini leagues (women's or students') if appropriate. If so, do so as directed on the telephone. You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters), your name, address with postcode and your daytime telephone number. Finally you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score. A new team will score [illegible] future games in the ITF and mini leagues. [illegible] about eight minutes and cost 50p per [illegible] made from [illegible]

LineOne

To enter, call

0891 405 011

(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

sports interactive

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ (Up to 16 characters)
Goalkeeper ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ______
Manager ☐☐☐☐☐ ______

First Name ______
Surname ______
Address ______
______
Postcode ______ Daytime Tel ______
Cheque / PO No. ______

This year ITF will incorporate separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.
☐ ITF League ☐ Women's League ☐ Student League ☐ Youth League (Under 18)

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league. *Entrants under 18 may enter the Youth league only and are not eligible for cash prizes.*

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX) 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐
How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐
How often do you read The Times? Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐
Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐
If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
10601	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50
11602	O Gottskalksson	Hibernian	1.50
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00
12301	S Given	Newcastle United	3.00
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00
12601	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20503	P Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
20601	N Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
20602	R Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
20603	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00
20904	R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50
21004	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50
21404	M Ward	Everton	1.50
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00
21801	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50
21802	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	2.50
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00
22101	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
22102	G Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22103	P Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22301	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00
22302	W Barton	Newcastle United	2.00
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.00
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22803	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.00
22902	A Impey	West Ham United	1.50
22903	T Breacker	West Ham United	2.00
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
30601	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50
31201	S Pressley	Dundee United	2.00
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00
31404	C Tiler	Everton	1.50
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50
31802	G Halle	Leeds United	2.00
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00
31804	L Radebe	Leeds United	2.00
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00
30501	H Berg	Manchester United	3.50
32101	D May	Manchester United	3.50
32102	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50
32301	P Albert	Newcastle United	2.50
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00
32303	S Howey	Newcastle United	2.00
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle United	3.00
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32802	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32803	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50
32902	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham United	2.00
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50
32904	I Pearce	West Ham United	2.00
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40601	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50
40602	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40604	M Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40605	J Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00
41108	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00
41201	R Winters	Dundee United	3.50
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	3.50
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00
41405	J Oster	Everton	2.50
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds United	3.50
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00
41802	A Haaland	Leeds United	2.00
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds United	2.50
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds United	2.50
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.00
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	4.00
42101	D Beckham	Manchester United	8.00
42102	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00
42103	R Keane	Manchester United	5.00
42104	N Butt	Manchester United	4.00
42105	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00
42301	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.00
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.50
42303	D Batty	Newcastle United	2.50
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle United	3.00
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	6.50
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00
42403	J Thern	Rangers	3.00
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00
42505	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	2.00
42708	M Oakley	Southampton	1.50
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42803	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42804	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42806	D Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham United	2.50
42902	S Lomas	West Ham United	2.50
42903	J Moncur	West Ham United	2.00
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	6.00
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.00
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	5.50
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	6.00
50602	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	3.50
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton Wanderers	3.00
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00
51004	M Padovano	Crystal Palace	2.50
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00
51103	F Baiano	Derby County	4.50
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee United	4.00
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds United	3.00
51803	R Wallace	Leeds United	3.50
51804	H Kewell	Leeds United	2.00
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester United	7.50
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester United	7.00
52103	P Scholes	Manchester United	8.00
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.00
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	8.00
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle United	2.00
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8.50
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham Hotspur	7.50
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52803	J Dominguez	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
52901	J Hartson	West Ham United	4.50
52902	P Kitson	West Ham United	3.00
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	1.50
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
60102	A Miller	Aberdeen	1.50
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
60601	C Todd	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75
61101	J Smith	Derby County	2.50
61201	T McLean	Dundee United	2.00
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	3.50
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	3.00
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	3.00
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester United	5.00
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle United	4.00
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00
62502	R Atkinson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50
62801	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50
62802	C Gross	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00

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RACING: SHEIKH HIGHLIGHTS INDUSTRY'S UNDERFUNDING IN GIMCRACK SPEECH

Maktoums issue threat to leave

By Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT

PHIL SMITH/SPORTING LIFE

Sheikh Mohammed, flanked by two of his brothers, Maktoum, left, and Hamdam, has threatened to pull out of British racing

A WARNING came from Sheikh Mohammed last night that the Maktoum family will pull out of British racing soon unless there are dramatic changes in the way the sport is financed.

The threat — and he insisted it was not an idle one — was contained in a speech written by the Dubai leader and delivered to the Gimcrack dinner at York.

His words, which he said came from both the heart and the head, means racing in Britain must now confront the ultimate nightmare. The withdrawal of the Maktoums, who have invested hundreds of millions of pounds during the past two decades, would leave the sport in a perilous state.

In his speech, read out by Michael Osborne, one of his trusted advisers, Sheikh Mohammed said everyone at the Gimcrack dinner knew that racing was being bled dry by chronic underfunding. But he stressed he was not holding out a begging bowl. "All that my brothers and I seek to do is to highlight the economic unrealities of racing — the folly of the figures — and to concentrate people's minds as to the inevitable consequences."

Observing diplomatic niceties, he said that as Minister of Defence in Dubai he would not have the discourtesy to advise the British Government on a matter of domestic policy. "But I would be failing in my duty as a racing man were I not to point out that the Government extracts from racing more money than is justifiable or sustainable in the long term.

"In crude terms, from the 9p deduction on bets in this country, the Government takes six times the amount that is returned to racing. They have 6.75 pence, the levy receives 1.2 pence and the rest disappears in the general direction of the bookmakers' ever-open pockets. Government must be convinced of the argument that by taking less now they will eventually get more from a revitalised and healthier industry."

British racing had so much of which it should be proud, but also some things "which should make us hang our heads in shame". Referring to the percentage of keep and training fees recoverable through prize-money in 40 countries worldwide, he said: "Britain ranks 35th, a desperate plight for a nation with the finest racing in the world. Can someone please explain to me how it is that owners would be better off racing in Poland, Mauritius or Greece rather than the birthplace and home of throughbred racing?"

The Sheikh said that he and his three brothers were proud to be powerful players in British racing and they had hoped to see their children race in this country. "But I fear the economic realities will dictate that the children will not follow their fathers."

He continued: "For ten years I have kept my own counsel and withstood all temptations to enter the debate surrounding racing's financial plight, but the time for silence has passed.

"We cannot justify continuing at present levels of investment for much longer and are actively studying whether other parts of the world might not provide better opportunities for us.

"All I ask is that the astounding gulf between outlay and return is narrowed — not for my benefit but for everybody's benefit."

The Sheikh added: "I am not holding a gun to anyone's head, but nor am I making an empty threat. Unless we see positive signs of progress and the possibility of change, we will massively reduce our racing and breeding presence in Britain and resign ourselves to racing in countries which bring us less pleasure but make more economic sense.

"We can no longer escape the stark fact that our racing operation in Britain is a luxury that we can no longer sustain — and just as that applies to us, so logically, it must also apply to the major international players and all too many home based owner-breeders as well.

While he loved racing, Sheikh Mohammed said he was beginning to despair as to its future. He urged racing to unite behind the British Horseracing Board (BHB) and he promised his family would offer any support it could. "But please be in no doubt that if we see no light at the end of the tunnel then we will be left with little choice but to make an exit. It isn't that we want to leave, but we fear we may have to go."

Giving a clue as to the timing of a possible withdrawal, Sheikh Mohammed said it would be good to think his family might have another winner of the Gimcrack in five years' time so he could deliver happier tidings in a speech. "But to have a winner of the Gimcrack in the year 2002 we would need to have a runner — as of tonight that can no longer be taken for granted."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Charming Admiral
(12.20 Hexham)

Charming Admiral made an encouraging hurdles debut behind French Holly in a decent race at Ayr recently. A reproduction of that effort should be rewarded with victory in the opener at Hexham.

Next Best: Native Charm
(3.00 Leicester)

Arabian story of abiding passion

By Chris McGrath

IN HIS homeland, he has turned desert scrub into a dazzling citadel. If such arid ground can yield to verdure, little wonder Sheikh Mohammed is baffled that the British Turf — so bewitchingly green and pleasant — should be allowed to wither.

Sheikh Mohammed's maroon and white colours are carried by a string of 350 racehorses worldwide. In the past 20 years, they have won him 433 European group races, including 130 group ones. Some 250 staff are employed on his British studs, principally at Dalham Hall in Newmarket, where his champions — like Mark Of Esteem, Halling and Singspiel — now sustain the sport's most fabulous empire as stallions.

After first dipping their toes into the waters of the British sport in 1976, the Maktoums caused a sensational splash at the turn of the decade, routing Robert Sangster at the sales. By 1983, things had reached the stage where Sheikh Mohammed could part with $10.2 million for a yearling, who became — as the useless Snaafi Dancer — a byword for the market's insane loss of gravity.

Sheikh Mohammed won seven of Europe's 15 principal classics in 1989, and was leading owner nine times between 1985 and 1994 (Sheikh Hamdan briefly interrupting in 1990). But he had also expanded the operation to the point of chaos. At one stage, he had 750 horses with 70 trainers.

Rationalisation followed in the early nineties. At the same time, the Sheikh's visions for Dubai enabled him to narrow the focus of his consuming passion. The success of Godolphin — wintering horses in the desert — gave the Sheikh immense pride, and lent his bloodstock empire new coherence. As one insider said yesterday: "If everything else goes, that will be the last thing left standing."

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

12.20 J J Baboo. 12.50 Dockmaster. 1.20 Birkdale. 1.50 I'm The Man. 2.20 Palacegate King. 2.50 Derannie. 3.20 The Butterwick Kid.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.20 BUCHANAN ALES NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,106: 2m) (16 runners)

101 8/P- BLACK ICE BOY 51F R Bastiman 6-10-12 .. H Bastiman (5) –
102 3-0F BOURBON DYNASTY 11 G Richards 4-10-12 ...... B Storey 112
103 4 CHARMING ADMIRAL 24 Mrs A Swinbank 4-10-12 . J Supple 124
104 CICERONE 570F Miss L Russell 7-10-12 .... A S Smith –
105 5 ENERGY MAN 28 M Dods 4-10-12 ...... R McGrath (3) 115
106 42-6 J J BABOO 24 M Hammond 4-10-12 ...... R Garritty 125
107 JOKERS CHARM N Mason 6-10-12 ...... R Guest –
108 0 LAND OF CHIEFS 24 F Murphy 4-10-12 ...... P Carberry –
109 04 MONIS 16 B Ellison 6-10-12 ...... E Callaghan 83
110 00- QUEENS BRIGADE 355 F Walton 5-10-12 ... K Johnson –
111 0/0- STINGING BEE 410 W Reed 6-10-12 ...... T Reed –
112 00- ALLERBECK 288 J Goulding 7-10-7 ...... R Supple –
113 66- ATLANTIC SUNRISE 316 R McDonald 5-10-7 .. J Magee (3) –
114 KERRISDALE P Beaumont 5-10-7 ...... B Grattan (5) –
115 F NATIVE SONG 18 W Storey 4-10-7 ...... M Moloney –
116 00- SANTA BARBARA 362 C Grant 6-10-7 ...... P Niven –

9-4 Charming Admiral, 3-1 J J Baboo, 7-2 Bourbon Dynasty, 8-1 Energy Man, 12-1 Santa Barbara, 14-1 Monis, 20-1 Black Ice Boy, Kerrisdale, 25-1 others.

12.50 FEDERATION BREWERY SPECIAL ALE AMATEUR HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,304: 3m) (14)

201 23-0 DUKE OF PERTH 13 (C,G) J Howard Johnson 6-11-10 C Bonner (3) 108
202 21-3 DOCKMASTER 21 (D,G,S) Miss M Milligan 6-11-8 R Wakley (5) 110
203 11P- CHERRY DEE 237 (D,S) P Beaumont 6-11-7 Miss P Robson (5) 105
204 -11P TOBY 19 (F,G) G Richards 4-11-6 ...... M Bradburne (7) 102
205 1-33 STYLISH INTERVAL 20 (F) D Smith 5-11-4 .. C Wilson (7) 112
206 1-04 SHONARA'S WAY 13 (G) P Monteith 6-11-4 .. R Hale (5) 97
207 /0-0 PEEP O DAY 13 (D,G,S) A J Lockwood 6-10-13 Miss A Deniel (7) 49
208 1225 DONT FORGET CURTIS 18 (CD,G) Mrs K Lamb 5-10-10 Miss S Lamb (7) 101
209 -410 POLO PONY 9 (F,G) J Upson 5-10-5 ...... A Brown (7) 100
210 004- RUBER 198 (D,G,S) R Thomson 10-10-3 ...... G Elliott (5) 114
211 0P-4 DOWSHI 24 L Lungo 6-10-0 ...... B Gibson (7) –
212 0-PU ROBARA 13 (C,F) S Leadbetter 7-10-0 ...... C Storey (5) –
213 -P00 PETRICO 57 P Beaumont 5-10-0 ... Miss A Armitage (7) 76
214 P-64 SNIPER 18 F Murtagh 5-10-0 ...... G Lake (7) 78

11-4 Dockmaster, 5-1 Toby, 6-1 Stylish Interval, 8-1 Duke Of Perth, Cherry Dee, 10-1 Polo Pony, Ruber, 12-1 others.

1.20 FEDERATION BREWERY MEDALLION LAGER NOVICES HURDLE (£2,511: 3m) (15)

301 2/36 ABINGER 15 Mrs M Rowland 5-10-12 ...... P Midgley (3) 86
302 P-PP ALICAT 16 (B) J Curtis 6-10-12 ...... J Callaghan –
303 F6-6 ALLERBY 33 J Goulding 9-10-12 ...... B Grattan (5) 82
304 2-22 BIRKDALE 11 L Lungo 6-10-12 ...... R Supple 77
305 3253 CYPRESS AVENUE 11 Mrs V Ward 5-10-12 ...... P Carberry 96
306 630- NASAYER 261 N Mason 7-10-12 ...... R Guest 83
307 6 NOUKARI 29 J Howard Johnson 4-10-12 ...... A S Smith –
308 PO-U ROYAL SPRUCE 33 G M Moore 6-10-12 ...... N Bentley –
309 /FF- SAFETY FACTOR 274 (D,F,G) D Alder 9-10-12 R McGrath (3) –
310 00- SUNSTRIKE 307 R McDonald 5-10-12 ...... J Magee (3) –
311 003 TYNDRUM GOLD 29 A J Lockwood 7-10-12 ...... B Storey 71
312 LADYLANDS Mrs S Williamson 4-10-7 ...... T Reed –
313 01-6 LINWOOD 24 (S) G Richards 6-10-7 ...... P Niven –
314 00- PEAK A BOO 256 D Whillans 6-10-7 ...... E Callaghan –
315 64P- SILVER PENNY 592 Mrs A Swinbank 7-10-7 ...... J Supple –

15-8 Birkdale, 7-2 Linwood, 4-1 Noukari, 6-1 Cypress Avenue, 14-1 Nasayer, 16-1 Allerby, 20-1 Abinger, Tyndrum Gold, 25-1 others.

1.50 KEOGHANS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,507: 3m 1f) (13)

401 P-1P CHIPPED OUT 24 (BF,G,S) M Todhunter 7-11-13 P Carberry 111
402 F2-U ANOTHER VENTURE 24 (S) F Murphy 7-11-11 E Callaghan 111
403 3-11 COMMITTED SCHEDULE 16 (CD,F) G Richards 6-11-6 P Niven 111
404 -21F PEBBLE BEACH 39 (CD,F) G M Moore 7-11-2 ... J Callaghan 98
405 -P24 RYE CROSSING 22 (B,F) T Easterby 7-10-13 ...... L Wyer 118
406 0-F2 MAMICA 28 M Dods 7-10-3 ...... N Smith 125
407 0-5F DANDY DES PLAUTS 7 Mrs S Smith 6-10-1 ... G F Ryan (5) 96
408 3-43 I'M THE MAN 7 Mrs E Slack 8-10-0 ...... K Johnson 118
409 /0-4 PENNYPOT 4 Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 5-10-0 ... Mr J Cullen (7) –
410 -364 MENALDI 11 P Cheesbrough 7-10-0 ...... A S Smith –
411 -232 MUSIC BLITZ 25 Mrs D Thomson 6-10-0 ...... R McGrath (3) 122
412 0PP- CRASHBALLOO 256 P Cheesbrough 6-10-0 ...... B Storey –
413 0P0P AHBEJAYBUS 7 (V) Miss L Siddall 8-10-0 ...... T Reed –

9-4 Committed Schedule, 9-2 Rye Crossing, 5-1 Pebble Beach, 7-1 Chipped Out, 10-1 Mamica, 12-1 I'm The Man, 14-1 Another Venture, Menaldi, 20-1 others.

2.20 FEDERATION BREWERY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,821: 2m) (8)

501 1242 TALATHATH 13 (D,F,G,S) J Curtis 5-11-10 ...... L Wyer 135
502 2-20 SARMATIAN 132 (D,F,G) F Murtagh 6-11-7 . N Horrocks (7) 131
503 303- PALACEGATE KING 256 (CD,S) A Whillans 8-11-6 I Jardine (7) 88
504 4-12 RACHAEL'S OWEN 9 (CD,F,G) J Goldie 7-10-7 . R McGrath (3) 129
505 500- RADANPOUR 221 (D,G,S) J Howard Johnson 5-10-6 . A S Smith 89
506 012- TOSHIBA TALK 116F (F) B Ellison 5-10-4 ...... E Callaghan 127
507 24-2 PARIAH 25 (C,D,S) M Todhunter 8-10-3 ...... P Niven 128
508 125- DIAMOND BEACH 53F (CD,S) G M Moore 4-10-0 . J Callaghan 118

3-1 Rachael's Owen, 4-1 Talathath, 5-1 Sarmatian, Pariah, 6-1 Palacegate King, 8-1 Toshiba Talk, 10-1 Diamond Beach, 20-1 Radanpour

2.50 EQUINAGE HORSE FORAGE NOVICES CHASE
(£3,234: 2m 110yd) (16)

601 2513 HOLDERS HILL 18 (CD,F,S) M Meagher 5-11-5 . F Leahy (3) 115
602 3P-1 LA RIVIERA 32 (D,F) J Charlton 5-11-5 ...... B Storey 138
603 -421 SHINING EDGE 18 (D,F,G) T Easterby 5-11-5 ...... L Wyer 137
604 02-3 ADVANCE EAST 25 (D,G) M Dods 5-10-12 ...... T Reed –
605 441- CUTHILL HOPE 275 (S) Mrs S Smith 6-10-12 ...... R Guest –
606 10-6 DERANNIE 13 (D,S) G Richards 5-10-12 ...... P Niven –
607 /0-P FORBES 27 J Howard Johnson 6-10-12 ...... K Johnson –
608 426- HAM N'EGGS 284 (D,F,G) M Hammond 6-10-12 . R Garritty –
609 2/44 KING OF THE BURREN 13 Mrs S Smith 7-10-12 G F Ryan (5) 119
610 32/P MCLOUGHLIN 16 F Kirby 8-10-12 ...... W Dwan –
611 1/33 MINSTER GLORY 11 (D,F) M W Easterby 6-10-12 P Carberry 119
612 2/3/ RED MARAUDER 1157 (D,G,S) N Mason 7-10-12 L O'Hara –
613 -584 ROCKETTS CASTLE 4 Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 7-10-12 Mr J Cullen (7) –
614 23-2 WELSH MARCH 25 (S) G M Moore 5-10-12 ... J Callaghan 125
615 245- NAWTINOOKEY 230 M Todhunter 7-10-7 ...... M Moloney 90
616 PP-4 PATEY COURT 77 (B,G) J Howard Johnson 8-10-7 A S Smith –

9-2 Minster Glory, 5-1 Shining Edge, La Riviera, 8-1 Holders Hill, 9-1 others.

3.20 BUCHANAN ALES NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,106: 2m) (15)

1 5 ALPINE HIDEAWAY 16 M W Easterby 4-10-12 P Midgley (3) 81
2 ALPINE PANTHER 34F Mrs M Reveley 4-10-12 ...... P Niven –
3 0 AREN'T WE LUCKY 24 J J O'Neill 4-10-12 ...... P Carberry 118
4 /P06 BLAKENEY BOY 20 D Lamb 7-10-12 ...... J Burke –
5 06- BLUE LUGANA 228F N Bycroft 5-10-12 ...... B Grattan (5) –
6 BLYTH BROOK Mrs J Storey 5-10-12 ...... Mr C Storey –
7 00-0 FALCON'S FLAME 22 V Thompson 4-10-12 Mr M Thompson 35
8 4-03 FASSAN 9 (V) M Hammond 5-10-12 ...... R Garritty 127
9 023- GOSPEL SONG 270 (BF) A Whillans 5-10-12 .. E Callaghan 119
10 35 HIGHFIELD PET 9 C Grant 4-10-12 ...... J Callaghan –
11 00-0 MADEMIST SAM 31 P Beaumont 5-10-12 ...... R Supple –
12 PLAYMAKER 203F M Barnes 4-10-12 ...... B Storey –
13 4-2 THE BUTTERWICK KID 22 R Fahey 4-10-12 ...... L Wyer 105
14 00-P THE OPERATOR 11 G Richards 6-10-12 ...... N Leach –
15 6 VANADIUM ORE 16 W McKeown 4-10-12 ...... R Guest 76

5-2 The Butterwick Kid, 7-2 Fassan, 9-2 Gospel Song, 8-1 Alpine Panther, 10-1 Alpine Hideaway, Vanadium Ore, 12-1 Aren't We Lucky, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Easterby, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; G Richards, 22 from 73, 30.1%; J Goldie, 3 from 11, 27.3%; L Lungo, 22 from 86, 25.6%; Mrs S Bramall, 4 from 17, 23.5%.

JOCKEYS: N Bentley, 13 winners from 49 rides, 26.5%; P Carberry, 9 from 35, 25.7%; E Callaghan, 5 from 23, 21.7%; P Niven, 20 from 95, 21.1%; B Grattan, 3 from 16, 18.8%; T Reed, 18 from 104, 17.3%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.10 White Plains. 12.40 Salty Behaviour. 1.10 Primary Colours. 1.40 Il Destino. 2.10 Broughtons Formula. 2.40 Naked Oat. 3.10 Into Debt. 3.40 Anokato.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.10 MARIA AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(£1,999: 1m 2f) (14 runners)

1 0021 WHITE PLAINS 8 (CD,F,S) K Burke 4-12-3 (5ex) . O McPhail 5
2 3120 ENLISTED 11 (BF,D,F) M Prescott 3-12-0 ...... C Vigors 1
3 0000 URSA MAJOR 12 (C) A Kelleway 3-11-12 .. R Barrett (7) 14
4 0110 SMART BOY 36 (CD,F) P Cole 3-11-12 Miss S Higgins (4) 13
5 5143 SEA DANZIG 8 (CD,F) J Bridger 4-11-10 .. Miss R Wilson (4) 4
6 0221 KAFIL 15 (C) G L Moore 3-11-5 ...... I Mongan (7) 7
7 0400 DOUBLE RUSH 126 (CD,F,S) T Mills 5-11-5 ... J Darby (7) 6
8 4300 CONTENTMENT 78 (D,G) S Dow 3-11-4 ...... R Guest (4) 10
9 6552 SWEET SUPPOSIN 8 (V,BF,CD) C Dwyer 6-11-2 K R O'Ryan 11
10 0000 MON ONE 34 (V,C,D,F,G,S) J Jenkins 7-10-5 Dr M Mannish 2
11 0065 CAPTAIN'S DAY 15 (CD,F,G) H Collingridge 5-10-2 Miss S Leahy (4) 3
12 /00- RETENDER 659 (D,F,G) J Pearce 8-10-0 ...... Mrs L Pearce 9
13 0000 SUMMERVILLE WOOD 12 (B,F) P Mooney 3-9-13 Miss L McIntosh (7) 8
14 0332 DON'T DROP BOMBS 6 (V,C,D,F,G) R McGhin 8-9-8 Miss J Feilden 12

7-2 White Plains, 9-2 Sweet Supposin, 7-1 Enlisted, Kafil, 8-1 Sea Danzig, Don't Drop Bombs, 10-1 Smart Boy, 12-1 others

12.40 TOINHA CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,294: 1m) (12)

1 0042 STOPPES BROW 6 (B,C,F,S) G L Moore 5-9-7 ... A Clark 11
2 1250 SALTY BEHAVIOUR 8 (F,S) R Hannon 3-9-2 ...... R Hughes 7
3 0000 SAKHAROV 120 (F,G) P Eccles 8-8-13 ...... T Williams 6
4 3300 TAILWIND 22 (F) W Muir 3-8-12 ...... Martin Dwyer 9
5 0346 ROBELLION 15 (CD,F,G) D Arbuthnot 6-8-10 . S Whitworth 3
6 5604 DARK MENACE 19 (B,F) E Wheeler 5-8-7 ... S Carson (7) 1
7 BROOKSEES DREAM B Palling 3-8-3 ...... M Henry (3) 2
8 0000 KILMEENA LADY 8 J Fox 3-8-1 ...... D O'Shea 8
9 6100 FLOOD'S HOT STUFF 98 (B,D,F) N Littmoden 3-7-13 N Adams 5
10 0000 CHIEF'S LADY 12 J S Moore 5-7-12 ...... F Norton 10
11 0005 LADYBOWER 8 (V,D) J Poulton 5-7-12 ...... D Biggs 4
12 00-5 CHILLI BOOM 79 (B) B Simpson 3-7-11 ...... N Carlisle 12

4-7 Stoppes Brow, 7-1 Salty Behaviour, 8-1 Robellion, Tailwind, 10-1 others.

1.10 COMMERCIAL CEILING FACTORS NURSERY HANDICAP
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £2,768: 1m) (8)

1 031 PRIMARY COLOURS 26 (D) J Pearce 9-7 ...... M Wigham 6
2 2000 BOULEVARD ROUGE 19 M Johnston 9-4 .. Dean McKeown 4
3 3006 RESPOND 46 G L Moore 9-2 ...... A Clark 7
4 004 BROWNING 48 Lord Huntingdon 8-11 ...... R Perham 5
5 0000 PRIORS MOOR 46 R Armstrong 8-9 ...... F Norton 3
6 030 IMPLICITLY 25 W Jarvis 8-7 ...... M Tebbutt 8
7 0600 DAWN TREADER 44 R Hannon 8-2 ...... D Biggs 1
8 0040 ABSTONE PET GIRL 19 P Evans 7-10 ...... A McCarthy (7) 2

5-2 Primary Colours, 9-2 Respond, 11-2 Dawn Treader, 6-1 Boulevard Rouge, 7-1 Priors Moor, 8-1 Browning, 10-1 Implicitly, Abstone Pet Girl.

1.40 COMMERCIAL CEILING FACTORS NURSERY HANDICAP
(Div II: 2-Y-O: £2,768: 1m) (8)

1 6002 OUT LIKE MAGIC 12 (F) P Evans 9-7 ... A McCarthy (7) 4
2 4352 MAREEBA 11 M Johnston 9-3 ...... J Fanning 3
3 0P1 IL DESTINO 15 (C) P Makin 9-2 ...... T Sprake 1
4 0516 LAUREN'S LAD 48 (B,BF,F) G Lewis 8-11 ... D Denby (7) 5
5 5041 SLIM PRIOR 22 (C) K Burke 8-8 ...... P Doe (7) 6
6 0060 NISABA 12 J S Moore 8-4 ...... P P Murphy (3) 7
7 0060 ELLEYSANTA 46 A Newcombe 8-3 ...... J Quinn 2
8 6640 MISS MUFFETT 48 P Mooney 8-0 ...... Martin Dwyer 8

5-2 Mareeba, 3-1 Out Like Magic, 9-2 Il Destino, 7-1 Lauren's Lad, 8-1 Slim Prior, 10-1 Nisaba, 12-1 Miss Muffett, 14-1 Elleysanta.

2.10 CHRISTINA HANDICAP
(£2,294: 2m) (11)

1 5201 INDIGO DAWN 30 (B,CD,S) M Johnston 3-9-11 D McKeown 10
2 0310 ROYAL ROULETTE 12 (C) Miss B Sanders 3-9-9 ... A Clark 8
3 4643 BRECON 7J W Muir 4-9-7 ...... Martin Dwyer 4
4 0364 MEILLEUR 50 Lady Herries 3-9-1 ...... T Sprake 5
5 0003 BROUGHTONS FORMULA 15 (B,CD,F) W Musson 7-9-0 O O'Shea 1
6 1504 AZTEC FLYER 15 (B,BF,D,F,S) C Brittain 4-8-13 M Rimmer 6
7 0021 SIGNED AND SEALED 6 (B,CD) C Cyzer 3-8-7 (5ex) T Williams 2
8 0006 STRAT'S LEGACY 15 (C,F) D Arbuthnot 10-8-0 .. J Quinn 11
9 0000 I SEE YOU SYDNEY 8 (V) M Polglase 3-7-13 ... N Adams 7
10 0000 MEGA TID 4J (C) J Poulton 5-7-12 ...... F Norton 9
11 0000 LIZIUM 6 J Fox 5-7-10 ...... P Doe (7) 3

3-1 Brecon, 4-1 Signed And Sealed, 9-2 Indigo Dawn, 11-2 Aztec Flyer, 6-1 Meilleur, 13-2 Broughtons Formula, 14-1 Royal Roulette, 16-1 others.

2.40 SELMA MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,294: 7f) (10)

1 06 BANK ON HIM 15 G L Moore 9-0 ...... M Wigham 3
2 30 DIAMOND DRILL 50 P Makin 9-0 ...... A Clark 7
3 5 MAC'S BACK 147 W O'Gorman 9-0 ...... Emma O'Gorman 9
4 0503 NAKED OAT 16 B Smart 9-0 ...... J Stack 2
5 0000 RED PEPPER 12 P Howling 9-0 ...... S Whitworth 4
6 YOUNICO M Johnston 9-0 ...... Dean McKeown 6
7 0 CITADEL 44 J G Smyth-Osbourne 8-9 ...... T Sprake 10
8 0 FIFTH EMERALD 33 C Wall 8-9 ...... M Tebbutt 1
9 0 SCOTLAND BAY 44 R Hannon 8-9 ...... R Perham 8
10 00 SILVER JOY 147 (E) K McAuliffe 8-9 ...... M Fenton 5

5-2 Naked Oat, 9-2 Bank On Him, Younico, 13-2 Diamond Drill, 8-1 Red Pepper, 12-1 Fifth Emerald, Silver Joy, 14-1 others

3.10 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Div I: £2,531: 7f) (14)

1 0541 SALTY JACK 8 (CD,F) V Soane 3-10-1 (6ex) . R Perham 14
2 0032 FAYIK 16 A Newcombe 3-9-13 ...... J Quinn 10
3 3000 LA PETITE FUSEE 12 (D,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 6-9-12 D Biggs 13
4 0300 MR FROSTY 16 (CD) W Jarvis 5-9-11 ...... M Tebbutt 6
5 3403 RESIST THE FORCE 12 (C,F) C Cyzer 7-9-9 ... A Morris 11
6 0004 MIJAS 8 (C,F) L Montague Hall 4-9-7 ...... F Lynch 3
7 0500 FORT KNOX 123 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 6-9-2 ...... A Clark 8
8 0016 GABLESEA 19 (D) B Baugh 3-8-13 ...... T Sprake 1
9 0001 CHIPSTEAD BAY 6 (C) K Ivory 3-8-8 (6ex) ... C Scally 4
10 -000 FOUR OF SPADES 177 (B,CD,F) K Burke 6-8-6 Amanda Sanders 9
11 0043 CLONOE 8 (B) R Ingram 3-8-0 ...... T Williams 12
12 0200 ABSTONE QUEEN 11 (B,D,F,G) P Evans 3-7-10 A McCarthy (7) 7
13 0000 COASTGUARDS HERO 20J M Usher 4-7-10 ... J Marshall 2
14 0600 INTO DEBT 6 (E,CD) J Poulton 4-7-10 ...... F Norton 5

7-2 Salty Jack, 9-2 Fayik, 5-1 Resist The Force, 8-1 Chipstead Bay, 10-1 La Petite Fusee, Mijas, 12-1 Gablesea, 14-1 others

3.40 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Div II: £2,518: 7f) (14)

1 0163 ANOKATO 8 (B,BF,C,F) K Ivory 3-10-0 ... P Roberts (3) 2
2 2303 ENCHANTING EVE 169 (CD,G) C Allen 3-9-12 Martin Dwyer 11
3 0165 MYTTONS MISTAKE 15 (D,F,G) R Hodges 4-9-11 S Drowne 7
4 6400 DIGPAST 21J (B,CD,G) J Bridger 7-9-9 ...... P Doe (7) 4
5 0000 KI CHI SAGA 8 (C,D) G L Moore 5-9-6 .. Candy Morris 12
6 5214 MOZAMBIQUE 12 (CD) Mrs J Cecil 3-9-3 ... S Whitworth 8
7 6140 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 22 (V) P Evans 3-9-3 A McCarthy (7) 6
8 3406 CASTLE ASHBY JACK 12 P Howling 3-9-0 ...... A Clark 13
9 5335 SHONTAINE 2 (C,D,F,G) M Johnston 4-8-12 N Pollard (7) 14
10 0002 SEJAAL 98 (F) R Flower 5-8-8 ...... Dean McKeown 1
11 6003 SLIEVENAMON 8 (B) R Simpson 4-8-1 ...... N Carlisle 3
12 4002 BADRINATH 12 H Collingridge 3-7-12 ...... F Norton 5
13 0002 WILD NETTLE 6 J Fox 3-7-10 ...... D O'Shea 9
14 0400 MU-ARRIK 6 (V,G) G Oldroyd 9-7-10 ...... J Bramhill 10

9-2 Mozambique, 5-1 Anokato, 7-1 Badrinath, 8-1 Enchanting Eve, Myttons Mistake, Shontaine, 10-1 Italian Symphony, Wild Nettle, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Oldroyd, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%; V Soane, 5 from 17, 29.4%; Lady Herries, 11 from 50, 22.0%; M Prescott, 25 from 116, 21.6%; Lord Huntingdon, 49 from 244, 20.1%

JOCKEYS: Emma O'Gorman, 23 winners from 121 rides, 19.0%; D McKeown, 23 from 139, 16.5%; Miss J Feilden, 4 from 27, 14.8%; C Scally, 7 from 48, 14.6%; S Whitworth, 41 from 301, 13.6%.

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

1.00 Erlking
1.30 Diwali Dancer
2.00 Once More For Luck
2.30 Andre Laval
3.00 POTTER AGAIN (nap)
3.30 Wassl Street

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.30 WASSL STREET.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ...... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT, SOFT IN DIP (HURDLES) SIS

1.00 OAK HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,672: 2m) (8 runners)

1 R/314-1 EFHARISTO 11 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs P Whale) J Cullinan 8-11-10 ... X Aizpuru (5) 97
2 -2P20F1 FLEET CADET 6 (V,CD,F,G,S) (Sir John Swaine) M Pipe 6-11-7 .. G Supple (5) 109
3 14353-1 RIVERBANK ROSE 12 (G,S) (Highwaymen Plc 1) W Clay 6-11-7 . G Tormey 109
4 000P-1U ERLKING 19 (D,G,S) (Ridgeway Ramblers) S Mellor 7-11-6 ...... C Webb (5) 110
5 2F-5124 APACHE PARK 20 (CD,G,S) (M Eley) A Streeter 4-11-3 ...... T Eley 111
6 F040-41 RANGER SLOANE 7 (D,G,S) (G Fierro) G Fierro 5-10-13 (7ex) ... A Thornton 94
7 3/1-2F0 COME ON PENNY 6 (BF,D,F) (A Frost) D Gandolfo 6-10-12 ...... G Bradley 103
8 15-0014 SECRET GIFT 11 (B,D,F) (Regal Racing) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-6 . Mr S Durack (5) 109

BETTING: 3-1 Erlking, 5-1 Fleet Cadet, 6-1 Efharisto, Ranger Sloane, Secret Gift, 7-1 Riverbank Rose, Apache Park, 10-1 Come On Penny

1996: CIRCUS LINE 5-11-8 M A Fitzgerald (13-8 fav) M W Easterby 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Efharisto beat Noble Tom 14l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft) with Secret Gift (15lb better off) 25l 4th. Fleet Cadet beat Nessun Doro 2l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft). Riverbank Rose beat Caracol 9l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). Erlking unseated rider in handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good): previously beat Galloping Guns 5l in 17-runner selling handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good). Apache Park 5¾l 4th of 5 to Run For Dante in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good to soft). Ranger Sloane beat Carrolls Rock 5l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Southwell (2m, good). Come On Penny 32l 8th of 12 to August Twelfth in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good)

ERLKING can recoup Aintree losses at expense of Efharisto

1.30 SPRUCE NOVICES CHASE
(£3,210: 2m 4f 110yd) (4 runners)

1 5111-33 DIWALI DANCER 35 (D,F,G,S) (B Case) M Pipe 7-10-12 ... A P McCoy 140
2 0P- FIRECROWN 323 (Mrs P Robeson) Mrs P Robeson 7-10-12 . M Richards –
3 4P51/3- LUGS BRANNIGAN 363 (F) (J Dowley) M Bradstock 8-10-12 .. G Bradley –
4 2/3012- TRISTRAM'S IMAGE 287 (G) (S Keeling) N Henderson 6-10-12 M A Fitzgerald –

BETTING: 4-7 Diwali Dancer, 11-4 Tristram's Image, 5-1 Lugs Brannigan, 50-1 Firecrown

1996: SLINGSBY 6-10-12 R Dunwoody (4-5 fav) N Gaselee 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Diwali Dancer 28l 3rd of 5 to Tidal Force in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, good to firm). Firecrown pulled up in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Lugs Brannigan 6l 3rd of 8 to Rosie-B in handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good), previously beat Quiet Dawn 6l in 21-runner handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to firm). Tristram's Image 13l 2nd of 14 to Colonel Blazer in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Welton Arsenal ¾l in 14-runner maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good)

DIWALI DANCER showed promise on his chasing debut last term and should oblige

2.00 CHESTNUT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE
(£1,898: 2m) (7 runners)

1 3/562-2 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 12 (D,F,G) (M Reveley RC) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-5 G Lee 103
2 1F0- TOULSTON LADY 86F (D,F) (Hickling and Squires Ltd) J Wharton 5-11-0 R Thornton 68
3 600-406 ADMIRAL'S GUEST 12 (J Jardine) W Clay 5-10-12 ...... Sophie Mitchell 78
4 4-0 CHIPALATA 13 (Mrs D Andrews) T Donnelly 4-10-12 ...... G Hogan –
5 GUY'S GAMBLE 117F (Parkers of Peterborough Plc) J Wharton 4-10-12 L Cummins –
6 F3PPP-3 MINOR KEY 107 (S) (Royston Racers) J Jenkins 7-10-12 ... D Yellowlees (5) –
7 0P3P-0 PETROS GEM 13 (Mrs P Merrell) M Bolton 4-10-7 ...... J Harris 54

BETTING: 4-5 Once More For Luck, 3-1 Toulston Lady, 7-1 Minor Key, 12-1 Admiral's Guest, 14-1 Guy's Gamble, 20-1 Chipalata, 33-1 Petros Gem.

1996: FLEET CADET 5-10-12 G Supple (4-1) M Pipe 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Once More For Luck 2l 2nd of 11 to Forzair in selling hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft) with Admiral's Guest (levels) 52l 6th. Toulston Lady 33l 14th of 16 to Silly Money in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Chipalata 62l 10th of 13 to Fartadel V in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good): previously 36l 4th of 12 to Agdistis in 3yo novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm). Minor Key beaten a distance 3rd of 4 to Northern Fleet in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Petros Gem 55l 7th of 10 to Gullendge in novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good)

ONCE MORE FOR LUCK has good opportunity to go one better

2.30 SYCAMORE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,785: 2m 7f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 /F1U3-3 BEAR CLAW 20 (B,BF,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) O Sherwood 8-11-12 R Johnson 119
2 1/18-U2 ANDRE LAVAL 20 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs C Wright) K Bailey 8-11-11 A Thornton 135
3 514-46P HAWAIIAN YOUTH 24 (F,G,S) (D Czarnetzki) G McCourt 9-11-6 D Bridgwater 142
4 P5420-P BEAUREPAIRE 31 (G,S) (Pell Mell Partners) R Alner 9-11-6 ... S McNeill 134
5 2321F-P WHO IS EQUINAME 13 (B,F,S) (Queen Elizabeth) N Henderson 7-11-0 M A Fitzgerald –
6 41P/6/ APPROACH THE STARS 733 (S) (W, M & E Robins) N Henderson 9-10-3 J Kavanagh –

BETTING: 2-1 Andre Laval, 5-2 Bear Claw, 5-1 Who Is Equiname, 7-1 Hawaiian Youth, 8-1 Beaurepaire, Approach The Stars.

1996: LORD OF THE WEST 7-10-13 A Maguire (2-1 fav) J J O'Neill 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Andre Laval ½l 2nd of 7 to Sunley Bay in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with Bear Claw (3lb better off) 27l 3rd. Hawaiian Youth pulled up in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good), previously 17l 6th of 9 to Edgemoor Prince in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). Beaurepaire pulled up in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to firm), previously 71l 7th of 10 to Seven Towers in grade III handicap chase at Uttoxeter (4m 2f, good). Who Is Equiname pulled up in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good). Approach The Stars 44l 6th of 9 to New Co in handicap chase at Clonmel (2m 4f, good to soft)

ANDRE LAVAL can confirm Wincanton running with Bear Claw

3.00 ASH MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,553: 2m) (12 runners)

1 BE BRAVE 108F (Lord MacLaurin) N Henderson 4-10-7 .. M A Fitzgerald –
2 52-2 FRESH FRUIT DAILY 13 (K Hudson) A Kelleway 5-10-7 .... A Bates (5) 103
3 033 I'M MAGGY 6 (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 7-10-7 ...... S Wynne 117
4 P5 JILL 27 (Harris Associates) S Brookshaw 6-10-7 ...... C Maude –
5 0P0/0P- LADYMALORD 422 (Blowingstone Partnership) M R Bosley 5-10-7 I Lawrence –
6 5/0-633 LOTSCHBERG EXPRESS 18 (A Clapperton) D Gandolfo 5-10-7 Sophie Mitchell (5) –
7 00000 MARY FRANCIS 11 (L Ballinger) L Grassick 4-10-7 ... Mr J Grassick –
8 4 NATIVE CHARM 32 (Pell Mell Partners) C Morlock 5-10-7 J A McCarthy 115
9 0 NEEDWOOD NUTION 13 (Grovell Racing) B Morgan 4-10-7 .. L Harvey –
10 214-14 POTTER AGAIN 21 (BF,G,S) (J Potter) D Nicholson 5-10-7 .. DOUBTFUL 110
11 0 ROYAL CEILIDH 18 (G Farr) D Williams 4-10-7 ... Mr S Durack (5) –
12 420-0 WHERE'S MIRANDA 21 (Mrs B Taylor) G McCourt 5-10-7 . D Bridgwater –

BETTING: 5-2 Potter Again, 3-1 Be Brave, 4-1 Fresh Fruit Daily, 11-2 I'm Maggy, 8-1 Native Charm, Lotschberg Express, 14-1 Jill, Where's Miranda, 33-1 others.

1996: POTTER'S GALE 5-11-3 A Maguire (5-4 fav) D Nicholson 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Fresh Fruit Daily 1¾l 2nd of 13 to Atlantic Mist in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). I'm Maggy 16l 3rd of 10 to Wahiba Sands in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft), previously 1¾l 3rd of 14 to Hill Farm Blues in mares novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good) with Potter Again (levels) 4¾l 4th. Jill 19l 5th of 19 to Namoodaj in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). Ladymalord pulled up in maiden hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good). Lotschberg Express 26l 3rd of 5 to Noisy Miner in novice hurdle at Aintree (2m 4f, good to soft), previously ½l 3rd of 10 to Oi Mother in mares novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft). Mary Francis 53l 12th of 17 to Harlequin Chorus in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft). Native Charm 4¼l 4th of 11 to Dines in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good). Needwood Nution 48l 7th of 13 to Fartadel V in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good). Royal Ceilidh 68l 8th of 10 to Zaralaska in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). Where's Miranda 33l 8th of 16 to Latin Mistress in mares national hunt flat at Hereford (2m 1f, good)

POTTER AGAIN may reverse Haydock placings with I'm Maggie

3.30 BIRCH HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,054: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 /1P412- WASSL STREET 268 (BF,CD,S) (R Norton) K Morgan 5-11-10 G Bradley 118
2 26224-1 BEECHFIELD FLYER 23 (CD,S) (Mrs M Robertson) W Clay 6-11-8 G Tormey 114
3 32-20 TONKA 20 (Mrs C Webster) D Gandolfo 5-11-1 ...... A P McCoy 113
4 21556-F IODER WAN 11 (G,S) (G Thomson) Mrs C Hicks 5-10-12 ... C Maude 106
5 P2U03/4 NELTEGRITY 23 (S) (Mrs I Dobney) Mrs P Sly 8-10-11 ... W Marston 114

BETTING: 15-8 Beechfield Flyer, 7-2 Tonka, Neltegrity, 4-1 Wassl Street, 8-1 Ioder Wan.

1996: WASSL STREET 4-10-13 N Williamson (4-1) K Morgan 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Wassl Street 7l 2nd of 6 to The Toiseach in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good to firm), previously beat Harlequin Chorus short head in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). Beechfield Flyer beat El Don 1½l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with Neltegrity (5lb better off) 5¾l 4th. Tonka 25l 7th of 20 to Ginger Fox in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft), previously 4l 2nd of 9 to Mesa Verde in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Ioder Wan fell in grade II hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft), previously 21l 6th of 11 to Jihaad in handicap hurdle at Thurles (2m, heavy)

WASSL STREET can make a winning reappearance for the third consecutive season

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
N Henderson	7	25	28.0	G Supple	3	6	50.0
D Nicholson	14	54	25.9	A P McCoy	11	44	25.0
M Pipe	21	82	25.6	G Bradley	6	29	20.7
O Sherwood	4	21	19.0	M A Fitzgerald	9	53	17.0
Mrs J Pitman	7	55	12.7	W Marston	10	67	14.9
W Clay	3	34	8.8	D Bridgwater	6	45	13.3

Blinkered first time

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hexham: 1.20 Alicat. 1.50 Ahbejaybus. 2.50 Patey Court. 3.20 Fassan. Lingfield Park: 12.40 Ladybower, Flood's Hot Stuff. 2.10 I See You Sydney. 2.40 Silver Joy. 3.10 Clonoe.

Cheltenham return

MAJOR BELL is on course for a return to Cheltenham for Saturday's Tripleprint Gold Cup. The Alistair Whillans-trained gelding chased home Sparky Gayle in the Cathcart Chase on his last visit to Prestbury Park in March.

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RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Huntingdon

Going: good, good to soft in places

12.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Auburn Boy (P Carberry, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Gemma (6-1); 3, Highpark (6-1). Comptesse 11-4 jt-fav. 9 ran. 1½l, ½l. Williams. Tote: £3.70; £1.30, £2.20, £2.10. DF: £22.30. Trio: £28.90. CSF: £18.27.

1.00 (3m ch) 1, Camera Man (M A Fitzgerald, 5-1); 2, Majors Legacy (7-2); 3, Elly's Harbour (9-4 fav). 13 ran. NR: Garethson. 3l, 23l. N Henderson. Tote: £6.10; £2.10, £1.30, £1.70. DF: £9.40. Trio: £5.90. CSF: £20.63.

1.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Road Racer (J A McCarthy, 33-1); 2, Ginger Fox (9-4 fav); 3, King Kalo (9-2). 21 ran. NR: Folding. 1½l, 12l. P Webber. Tote: £54.80; £9.80, £1.40, £2.30. DF: £80.80. Trio: £211.60. CSF: £103.37.

2.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Get Real (M A Fitzgerald, 1-2 fav); 2, Royal Event (2-1); 3, Fenwick's Brother (20-1). 8 ran. 3l, 22l. N Henderson. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £1.80. CSF: £1.93. Tricast: £7.45.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, Serenus (M A Fitzgerald, 10-1); 2, Namoodaj (9-4); 3, Barford Sovereign (100-30). Desert Mountain 15-8 fav. 7 ran. 2l, 3½l. N Henderson. Tote: £9.40; £3.50, £1.60. DF: £9.40. CSF: £31.50.

3.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, The Toiseach (R Thornton, 8-11 fav); 2, Dolikos (25-1); 3, Gaelic Blue (8-4). 4 ran. NR: Seletan. 1¼l, dist. J Fanshawe. Tote: £1.60. DF: £9.60. CSF: £10.42.

3.30 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Smith's Perk (G Hogan, 11-1); 2, Conchobor (4-6 fav); 3, Squaddie (7-1). 16 ran. NR: Bertie Bavard, Not's Cash For Fun. ¾l, 1½l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £16.00; £3.50, £1.40, £1.70. DF: £13.60. Trio: £18.20. CSF: £19.46.

Jackpot: £30,858.20 (0.7 winning tickets. Pool of £13,038.68 carried forward to Hexham today).

Placepot: £8.60. Quadpot: £5.10.

Plumpton

Going: soft, heavy in places

12.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Totally Yours (A P McCoy, 2-7 fav); 2, Mad Alex (12-1); 3, Moorlandmerrymaker (12-1). 9 ran. 20l, 4l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £1.70, £2.40. DF: £3.60. Trio: £23.50. CSF: £5.42.

1.10 (2m ch) 1, Music Please (A P McCoy, 7-2); 2, Bay Lough (14-1); 3, Lets Rumble (7-4 jt-fav). Barristers Boy 7-4 jt-fav. 7 ran. 1¾l, 3l. Miss V Williams. Tote: £4.10; £1.60, £3.70. DF: £13.00. CSF: £38.80.

1.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Fartadel V (A P McCoy, 8-13 fav); 2, Be My Mot (33-1); 3, Ikopan (14-1). 7 ran. 15l, 18l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £2.90. DF: £14.40. CSF: £21.93.

2.10 (2m 5f ch) 1, Beatson (B Powell, 7-2); 2, Karar (100-30); 3, Jojo (7-1). Woodlands Boy 11-4 fav. 6 ran. 3½l, 4l. R Buckler. Tote: £4.00; £1.60, £2.30. DF: £8.30. CSF: £14.05.

2.40 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Wishing William (J F Titley, 9-4 fav); 2, Ourownfellow (11-4); 3, Simpson (7-2). 7 ran. 3l, dist. Miss H Knight. Tote: £3.60; £2.20, £3.10. DF: £6.20. CSF: £8.88.

3.10 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Royale Angela (G Bradley, 2-1 fav); 2, Kelly Mac (15-2); 3, Northern Drums (5-2). 7 ran. ¾l, 3l. J Neville. Tote: £3.00; £1.70, £3.10. DF: £9.00. CSF: £15.82.

3.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Unsinkable Boxer (A P McCoy, 11-10 fav); 2, Telleporky (9-1); 3, Esperanza IV (7-1). 8 ran. 8l, 1¼l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £2.70, £2.10. DF: £7.60. CSF: £11.11. Tricast: £44.22.

Placepot: £140.20. Quadpot: £21.20.

Sedgefield

Going: good, good to firm in places

12.20 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Charley Lambert (E Husband, 6-4 fav); 2, Count Karmuski (9-1); 3, Donnybrook (11-1). 11 ran. 7l, 3l. J Mackie. Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £3.40, £5.20. DF: £13.60. Trio: £139.30. CSF: £16.81.

12.50 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Young Tomo (E Callaghan, 11-10 fav); 2, Basincroft (33-1); 3, Mill-Dot (12-1). 10 ran. NR: David's Way. 1l, 6l. J Howard Johnson. Tote: £2.30; £1.50, £3.00, £1.50. DF: £14.00. Trio: £47.30. CSF: £49.62.

1.20 (3m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Kinda Groovy (N Smith, 6-1); 2, Saucy Nun (4-1); 3, Scarba (8-1). Galen 11-8 fav. 6 ran. 12l, 1¼l. I Park. Tote: £8.60; £5.10, £1.90. DF: £10.80. CSF: £28.38.

1.50 (3m 3f ch) 1, Noosa Sound (R Supple, 2-1 fav); 2, Seldom But Severe (25-1); 3, The Wasp (16-1). 11 ran. NR: Lord Pat. 11l, 1¼l. L Lungo. Tote: £3.20; £1.10, £15.50, £5.20. DF: £96.50. Trio: £135.60. CSF: £56.63.

2.20 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Golden Hello (L Wyer, 2-1 fav); 2, Dual Image (5-1); 3, Briar's Delight (7-2). 7 ran. NR: Whitegates Willie. 1¼l, 15l. T Easterby. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.80. DF: £6.40. CSF: £11.77. Tricast: £29.63.

2.50 (2m 5f ch) 1, Cumberland Blues (Miss A Deniel, 10-1); 2, Juke Box Billy (2-1 fav); 3, Corbleu (4-1). 9 ran. NR: Dragons Bay. 13l, 5l. A Lockwood. Tote: £11.90; £2.20, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £11.60. Trio: £40.90. CSF: £30.86. Tricast: £91.13.

3.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Pentland Squire (A K Smith, 5-1); 2, Noble Tom (9-4 fav); 3, Soldier Mak (9-2). 8 ran. 1¾l, 19l. J Jefferson. Tote: £5.10; £1.40, £1.40, £1.10. DF: £4.70. CSF: £16.79. Tricast: £51.51.

Placepot: £260.90. Quadpot: £51.30.

☐ Nicky Henderson continued his fine recent form when landing a 98-1 treble with Camera Man, Get Real and Serenus at Huntingdon yesterday.

Forest set deadline on legal action

By Richard Hobson

NOTTINGHAM Forest have set a deadline of Christmas Eve for Anderlecht to respond to claims for compensation, after the Belgian club this year admitted having made a payment to the referee of the controversial 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final. Phil Soar, the chief executive, said Forest will take the matter to the civil courts if Anderlecht refuse to acknowledge their letter by December 24.

The Forest players involved in the second-leg tie — which Anderlecht won 3-0 to ensure a place in the final against Tottenham Hotspur — and the club are employing a Belgian lawyer to prepare separate claims which they believe could realise up to £2 million.

Constant Vanden Stock, a former Anderlecht chairman, told Belgian television last September that Guruceta Muro, the referee, was paid £18,000 the day after the game. Earlier this year, Anderlecht admitted paying blackmail money to two men stretching back to 1984.

Soar has written to Anderlecht asking for discussions about an out-of-court settlement. He said: "Anderlecht know how we feel on this matter and they also know we would like to hear from them. If that does not happen by December 24 then we will, in all likelihood, lodge our claim with the courts."

The claim is based on estimated revenue which would have been generated from a two-legged final against Tottenham. Forest said their share of gate receipts and television income would have been close to £1.5 million. In addition, the players — including the England internationals, Steve Hodge and Garry Birtles — cite foregone win bonuses and subsequent improvements that would have been made to their contracts.

Uefa said initially that they were powerless to impose punishment on Anderlecht because the offence took place more than ten years ago. However, they have since imposed a one-year ban from European competitions which will come into force when Anderlecht next qualify. Forest have put a case to Uefa to be given that place instead, although Anderlecht have appealed against the ban.

Forest were 2-0 up after the first leg at the City Ground. In Belgium, they had what appeared to be a fair goal disallowed by Muro, who also awarded a dubious penalty against Kenny Swain. Muro, from Spain, died in a car accident ten years ago. Anderlecht lost the final on penalties.

FOOTBALL

United aiming to shift Europe's balance of power

From Oliver Holt, football correspondent, in Turin

FROM the outside, it looks just like another dreary, nondescript piece of suburban architecture, a great sprawl of a building that lurks on the Turin ring road. It used to be the flagship factory of Fiat, the car giant that bankrolls Juventus, but it fell into disuse and they turned it into a hotel. Last night, Manchester United checked in.

Having taken up residence at one faded symbol of an Italian institution, Alex Ferguson and his players will tonight attempt to highlight the almost intangible decline of another. A sixth successive win in the European Cup Champions' League is their target against Juventus in the Stadio Delle Alpi. If they achieve it, their opponents will slide out of the competition, humbled by the team that seeks to claim its mantle as the most respected side in Europe.

United, of course, are already safely through to the quarter-finals, the next stage of the competition. If all had once assumed that this would be the decisive tie, the one that decided group B, United, 3-2 victors over the Italian champions at Old Trafford at the beginning of October, have been so dominant that they have scythed away the pressure already.

They will be playing for pride, to try to avenge the 1-0 defeat here last season that shook them to the core. Juventus, though, will be competing with the urgency and the tension of a team that fears its supremacy may have begun to disappear.

That disparity showed in the press conferences of the respective coaches yesterday. Marcello Lippi was passionate and dogmatic, trying to lift his team and its supporters towards the win that will give them a fighting chance of sneaking into the last eight as one of two best losers. Ferguson, once clasping his hands together in mock prayer that Peter Schmeichel, his goalkeeper, might be reduced to the role of a spectator, was all magnanimity and courtesy.

"The fate of Juventus does not concern me," Ferguson said. "My only concern is Manchester United. I think Juventus are a fabulous club, a class club and I have got great respect for their coach. Actually, I hope that they get through but not at the expense of us losing.

"In the first half of last season's match here, there was no expression in our play. The players were overpowered and intimidated but I don't think that will happen tomorrow. In relation to last season, I think we have to show how we have improved in terms of our authority.

"Playing in front of a packed house of 75,000 here will be absolutely brilliant for my players. They will love it. But if we were to perform badly then a lot of questions would be asked. We have got to continue the upward trend we have shown in the Champions' League and this is the biggest test for us."

That Ferguson, who has left Paul Scholes at home in England nursing flu, should even be in a position to refute the idea that United would show the great Juventus mercy was an indication of just how far his side has travelled since last season, when Lippi's team taught them a lesson at home and away.

Now United, truly firing on all cylinders, so confident in their renascent goalscorer, Andy Cole, and his burgeoning partnership with Teddy Sheringham, that they felt able yesterday to pull out of the auction for the services of River Plate's Chilean striker, Marcelo Salas, are in the ascendancy, afraid of no one.

Lippi, who will be forced to start the game without the suspended Alessandro del Piero and the injured Nicola Amoruso and Didier Deschamps, will field Daniel Fonseca and Filippo Inzaghi in attack. Compelled to chase the game, he promised yesterday that Juventus would not throw all caution to the wind.

"We have a great conviction that we can beat Manchester United," Lippi said. "We believe we will win even though they are currently one of the strongest teams in the world. Tomorrow, we will see how great they have become."

Increasingly, the signs are that United are indeed on the verge of greatness. In five attempts, they have never beaten an Italian club in Italy but this time the omens are good. Ferguson was so relaxed about the talents of his team that he even brushed aside a question about whether the lavishly gifted Juventus midfield general, Zinedine Zidane, was his favourite player. "All my favourite players wear red jerseys," he said with a smile.

JUVENTUS (4-4-2): A Peruzzi — A Birindelli, C Ferrara, P Montero, M Torricelli — A di Livio, A Conte, Z Zidane, A Tacchinardi — F Inzaghi, D Fonseca.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): P Schmeichel — G Neville, G Pallister, H Berg, P Neville — D Beckham, R Johnsen, N Butt — A Cole, E Sheringham, O G Solskjaer.
Referee: G Veissiere (France).

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	5	5	0	0	14	4	15
Juventus	5	3	0	2	11	8	9
Feyenoord	5	2	0	3	7	10	6
Kosice	5	0	0	5	2	12	0

TODAY: FC Kosice v Feyenoord; Juventus v Manchester United.

Strachan secures his future with Coventry

GORDON STRACHAN, the Coventry City manager, has signed a contract that will keep him at Highfield Road until 2003. The offer of the extension to his original agreement, which runs out in 1999, was made by Bryan Richardson, the Coventry chairman, almost two months ago, but Strachan claimed he had not had time to sign it.

Coventry won only one of 11 FA Carling Premiership matches in that period, but Richardson still feared he might lose Strachan in the manner of Ray Harford's departure from West Bromwich Albion last week.

Harford had also persistently declined to sign his contract and, eventually, was lured away by Queens Park Rangers. Strachan said yesterday: "It's only a bit of scribble on a piece of paper."

Gary McAllister, the Coventry captain, has resumed training and is likely to return against Tottenham Hotspur at Highfield Road on Saturday after a knee injury.

Plans for a radical overhaul of the Football League, including a first division of just 12 teams, will be discussed at a meeting in London today involving all 72 Nationwide League clubs. There are five proposals: maintain the existing structure; three divisions of 20, 26 and 26 teams; four divisions of 18 to 20 clubs; six divisions of 12 clubs, and a "super league" of 12 teams followed by two of 24 and another of 12.

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT

Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, exudes confidence at a press conference yesterday

Dalglish pays the price for Newcastle's spending cuts

By David Maddock

KENNY DALGLISH is a guarded man. During a round of golf one day, Gordon Strachan, his playing partner, inquired as to how many shots Dalglish had taken on a particular hole. "How many do you think I have?" came the reply.

At his press conference to discuss Newcastle United's final European Cup Champions' League tie, it was interesting to hear him touch on the subject of transfers, and the state of his squad at St James' Park. For once, the Newcastle manager let his guard down, although, given his nature, it was probably a deliberate move.

The North East club has been strangely quiet in the transfer market, buying only cheap, young players of potential and recruiting experienced men in free transfers. It is an unsatisfactory situation, and the manager finally hinted at his frustration yesterday.

"We need players," he said. "No team in history has been successful without spending money."

For weeks, the Newcastle board has stored up problems by failing to provide the funds Dalglish requires to plug the gaps left by injuries. Now the dam has burst, with an ignominious exit from the Champions' League swiftly followed by two crippling defeats in the FA Carling Premiership.

The visit of Dynamo Kiev tonight is likely to provide further evidence of the problems that face Dalglish. The Ukraine champions have progressed serenely through the qualifying stages and offer a formidable examination. They are likely to be under strength, with players on yellow cards rested, but will still be more than a match for the English club.

"They have been the best side in our group by some distance, and considering the strength of the group, that is some compliment," Dalglish said. "They have quality. It's not the size of your squad that counts as much as the quality."

The quality Dalglish referred to comes, in particular, in the form of Andrei Shevchenko and Sergei Rebrov, a forward partnership of quite devastating potential, and a defensive line led by the exemplary Alexandr Golovko.

All three have been targets for clubs across the Continent. Shevchenko is possibly the most wanted player in Europe at present, with Milan, Juventus and Manchester United all registering an interest. Rebrov is similarly coveted, and Golovko has been watched by Liverpool on several occasions.

Dalglish would also be interested in the trio, after his first-hand experience, had financial constraints not forced him to lower his sights somewhat.

So it is that Dalglish will probably start the match tonight with a half-fit Faustino Asprilla. Ian Rush is back in training, but Newcastle's striking forces are too depleted to expect anything more than an honourable failure against Kiev.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable; 4-4-1-1): S Given — S Watson, D Peacock, S Pearce, A Pistone — K Gillespie, R Lee, D Batty, J Barnes — J D Tomasson — F Asprilla.
DYNAMO KIEV (probable; 4-4-2): A Shovkovsky — S Dmytrulin, A Golovko, A Skrypnyk, A Gusin — S Mezimov, O Kossovsky, V Vaschuk, A Kalitvintsev — S Rebrov, A Shevchenko.

Italians ponder difficult equation

By Matt Dickinson

THE clamour to make next year's European Cup Champions' League format consist of four groups of six rather than six of four carries an advantage other than simply increasing the number of games — and thus the swelling bank accounts — of Europe's leading clubs. It will also save the frantic calculations at the end of the matches tonight to discover which two clubs are the best runners-up, thus joining the group winners in the quarter-finals.

Already through are Manchester United, Borussia Dortmund, the holders, and, barring unprecedented goalscoring feats against them, Bayern Munich and the impressive Dynamo Kiev. In group D, Real Madrid should cruise through with a home victory over an ailing FC Porto, while group F is delicately balanced, with AS Monaco and Bayer Leverkusen level and due to meet in Germany.

A convenient draw would leave them on 13 points and guarantee both a passage, Leverkusen taking one of the best runners-up spots. The other runners-up place is at present in the hands of Rosenborg, the champions of Norway, who knocked AC Milan out of the competition last year. A win at Olympiakos, bottom of group D, will be enough to ensure that they advance.

Any other scenario will send the competition into a mathematical frenzy. If Rosenborg lose, Juventus, on nine points, are next in line if they can beat United. Meanwhile, Paris Saint-Germain, also on nine points in group E, will be desperate for a heavy victory at home to Besiktas to give them a chance.

To determine who goes through, total points count first, followed by goal difference, goals scored and then goals scored away from home. Get your calculators ready.

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Dortmund	5	4	0	1	11	3	12
Parma	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Sparta Prague	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Galatasaray	5	1	0	4	3	10	3

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Kiev	5	3	2	0	13	4	11
PSV Eindhoven	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Newcastle	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Barcelona	5	1	1	3	5	12	4

Group D

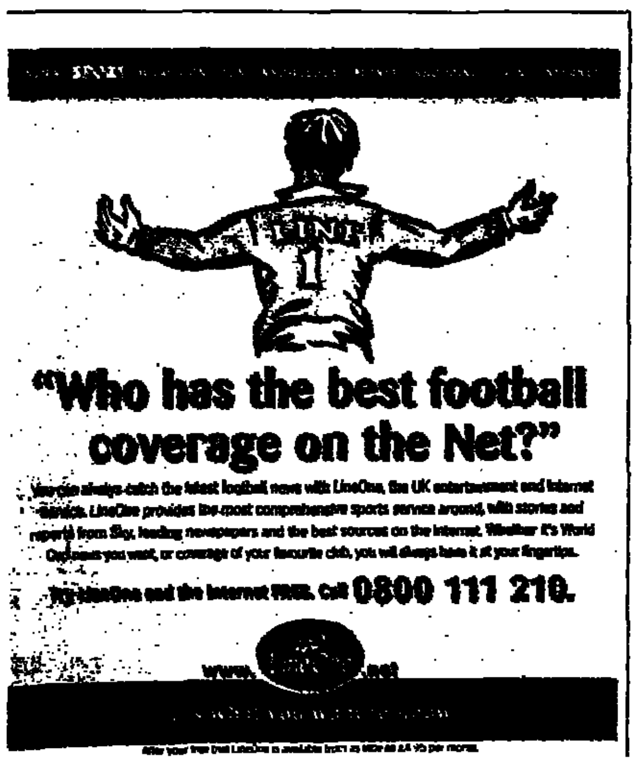
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	5	3	1	1	11	4	10
Rosenborg	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
FC Porto	5	1	1	3	3	7	4
Olympiakos	5	1	1	3	4	12	4

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	5	4	0	1	13	5	12
Paris S-G	5	3	0	2	9	9	9
Besiktas	5	2	0	3	5	7	6
IFK Gothenburg	5	1	0	4	3	9	3

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	5	4	0	1	13	6	12
B Leverkusen	5	4	0	1	9	5	12
Sporting L	5	1	1	3	7	10	4
Lierse	5	0	1	4	2	10	1



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SQUASH

Nicol almost at the summit

By Colin McQuillan

PETER NICOL is certain to be listed as world No 1 for the first time as a result of his win over Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, in Bombay last Saturday, but he will have to wait until February for his life ambition to become fact.

Under the mathematical formula which controls the ranking points distribution of the Professional Squash Association (PSA), Jansher will remain marginally ahead of the Scottish left-hander on the list issued on January 1.

Even if he were to lose in the early stages of the Heliopolis Open, which started yesterday in Cairo without Nicol's involvement, Jansher holds enough points in hand from the year to stay marginally ahead. Next year the PSA is to issue its ranking lists monthly instead of the present two-monthly schedule, and Jansher will be the first victim of the change.

When the commitments and results for both players from the January periods of both 1997 and 1998 are thrown into the reshaped balance, the PSA has confirmed that Nicol will become only the third man to have displaced Jansher from his No 1 spot since January 1988.

Within the space of a month Jansher has lost control of both the world open championship he had won eight times and of the No 1 position from which he had been briefly removed only by Jahangir Khan and Chris Dittmar in the previous ten years. He missed the world open in Kuala Lumpur in November in order to avoid being drawn into a child maintenance dispute with his former wife, Violet Soh, in the Malaysian Sharia court.

In Egypt just before the world championships, Jansher claimed he could win every tournament around the world open to demonstrate his continuing superiority, then regain the title next year. Instead he was beaten in Qatar by Jonathon Power, of Canada, and in Kuwait and India by Nicol.

Bombay was Nicol's fourth successive win over Jansher this season and his first words were: "I have worked and waited so long for this." Now he has just to wait until February 1.

SNOOKER

Higgins takes positive step

By Phil Yates

JOHN HIGGINS yesterday began the process of mentally erasing the worst defeat of his career by overcoming Martin Clark 5-2 for a place in the quarter-finals of the German Open.

Higgins was beaten unexpectedly by Gary Ponting in the last 64 of the recent United Kingdom championship and described being forced to watch the event on television as "purgatory". His determination to assume a more active role here in Bingen was evident.

"I've got to get what happened at the UK out of my mind. It was a big blow, but it's stupid to dwell on things like that," Higgins said. "I missed far too many easy pots again out there [yesterday], but at least I got the result."

Clark won the opener on the pink, but Higgins took the next four frames, assisted by runs of 74 and 121. Clark stole the sixth frame on the black with a clearance initiated by a fluked green, and should have maintained his revival by winning the seventh in similarly tight circumstances.

The diminutive West Midlander, who overcame Steve Davis in the final qualifying round, required the black to reduce Higgins's lead to 4-3, but, with the cue ball under the baulk cushion, his intended pot to a middle pocket went astray.

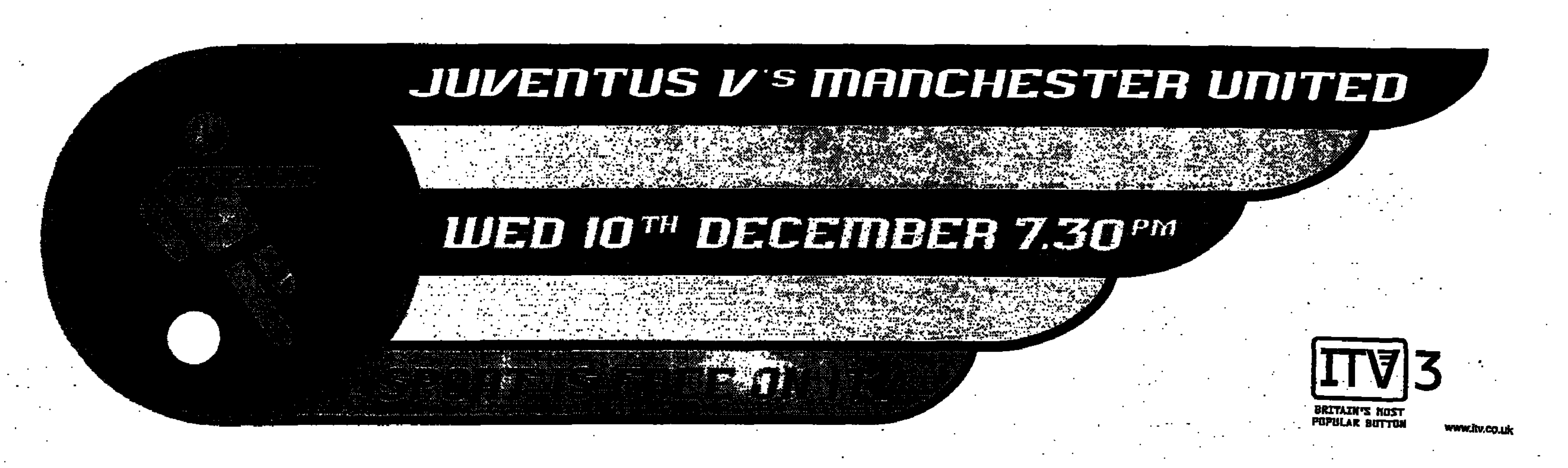
Higgins duly sank it and will now play Anthony Hamilton or Jason Ferguson.

There was more than a touch of *déjà vu* when Jamie Burnett, of Hamilton, recovered from a 4-2 deficit to defeat Gary Wilkinson 5-4 — it was the third time the Scot has prevailed by this margin in their three meetings in professional events.

Burnett, who beat Stephen Hendry in the second round of the Grand Prix last October, compiled a break of 51 in the seventh frame, survived a scrappy eighth, and, aided by a run of 44 in the decider, completed a notable fightback.

On his first appearance in the quarter-finals of a ranking tournament, Burnett will meet Shokat Ali, Pakistan's leading player, or, more likely, Ken Doherty, the world champion.

Results, page 45



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CRICKET

Lloyd urges action after humiliation

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CLIVE LLOYD, the West Indies manager, yesterday urged selectors to rethink their plans for the Test series with England after a humiliating whitewash in Pakistan.

Lloyd, who captained West Indies during their record-breaking unbeaten sequence in the 1980s, watched as the team slumped to a 3-0 series defeat by losing the final Test by ten wickets in Karachi.

It was the first time West Indies had suffered a whitewash since A. F. P. Chapman led England to a 3-0 triumph over R. K. Nunes's side in 1928 and only the third time that Pakistan have achieved such a scoreline.

But more worrying for Lloyd and the coach, Malcolm Marshall, were the margins of victory during the series — West Indies lost by an innings at Peshawar and Rawalpindi before suffering their comprehensive defeat in Karachi.

West Indies have won just two of their past eight Tests as they prepare to face England — against whom they have not lost a series since 1967-68 — in a five-Test series in the Caribbean, starting in the New Year.

"It has gone from bad to worse," Lloyd, who won all three series against Pakistan while West Indies captain, said. "This is the best side in the West Indies and they should perform as such.

"Really and truly they haven't come up to the mark; our cricket has been really bad. This is the second game where the bowlers have got us into a position and the batters have let us down. Looking towards the future we have to get some young batsmen who really want to bring West Indies cricket back to the top.

"The guys did not put up their best and now it's up to the Board to rethink seriously for the coming series against England."

Pakistan wrapped up the whitewash yesterday with their captain, Wasim Akram, taking three wickets in six balls in less than an hour's play on the fourth day. Resuming at 198 for seven, West Indies avoided their third successive innings defeat, but lost Franklyn Rose in the fourth over of the day after he edged to the wicketkeeper, Moin Khan, for six.

Wasim took two further wickets in his next over to dismiss the tourists for 212, yorking the West Indies captain, Courtney Walsh, and removing Mervyn Dillon leg-before.

It left Pakistan a victory target of 12, which they achieved with Azhar Mahmood hitting Walsh to the boundary. Saqlain Mushtaq, won the man-of-the-match award for career-best match figures of nine for 80.

WEST INDIES: First Innings 216 (S L Campbell 50; Saqlain Mushtaq 5 for 54).

Second Innings

S L Campbell c Inzamam b Waqar	5
S C Williams lbw b Waqar	12
B C Lara c Mohammed b Saqlain	37
C L Hooper b Wasim Akram	106
S Chanderpaul c Moin b Saqlain	16
R I C Holder c Aamir b Saqlain	5
†D Williams b Saqlain	2
I R Bishop not out	6
F A Rose c Moin b Wasim Akram	5
*C A Walsh b Wasim Akram	0
M V Dillon lbw b Wasim Akram	4
Extras (b 7, lb 2, nb 5)	14
Total	212

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-19, 3-140, 4-182, 5-186, 6-191, 7-193, 8-207, 9-208.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 16.4-7-42-4; Waqar Younis 6-0-31-2; Azhar Mahmood 3-0-32-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 8-0-72-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 19-9-26-4.

PAKISTAN: First Innings 417 (Aamir Sohail 160, Ijaz Ahmed 151; M V Dillon 5 for 111, C A Walsh 4 for 74)

Second Innings

Mohammad Wasim not out	0
Azhar Mahmood not out	13
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (no wkt)	15

BOWLING: Walsh 3-0-11-0; Rose 2-0-4-0

Man of the match: Saqlain Mushtaq.

Men of the series: Aamir Sohail (Pakistan), C A Walsh (West Indies)

Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) and Salim Badar (Pakistan).

Points system may be introduced for Tests

A KNOCKOUT finish — made up of semi-finals and a final — is one of the options being considered by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for its proposed World Test championship (Simon Wilde writes). An ICC subcommittee, chaired by Jagmohan Dalmiya, the council's president, is to explore ways of operating a championship and report back to a meeting at Lord's next June.

"I suggested Tests should be played in different countries at different times on a points system," Dalmiya, a critic of drawn Tests, said at the end of a two-day ICC meeting in Calcutta yesterday. "Otherwise, people will get bored watching five-day Test matches."

The meeting decided that a one-day tournament involving all nine Test-playing teams will be held in Sharjah next September and October. Bangladesh and the United States were also considered.

In terms of participants, it promises to be the biggest one-day tournament held outside a World Cup.

GRAHAM CHADWICK / ALLSPORT

Adam Hollioake, the England captain, and Alec Stewart, left, get some valuable net practice yesterday in Sharjah, where the team will play their opening match in the Sharjah Champions Trophy against India tomorrow

England rely on experienced hands

BY THRASY PETROPOULOS

AFTER months of preparation, England today get down to the business of defending the World Cup they won in 1993, when they take on South Africa in Hyderabad. England, the joint tournament favourites with New Zealand, will have benefited from beating South Africa 2-1 in a one-day series in the summer.

That South Africa were able to compete on anything like level terms was an achievement in itself and a result, in no small measure, of the influence of Conrad Hunte, the former West Indies opening batsman. Hunte has been national development coach for the United Cricket Board of South Africa for four years and an important part of his brief is the development of women's cricket.

He believes experience holds the key to the competition. He said: "England are the most disciplined. Expertise from Dermot Reeve, Mike Gatting and Geoff Arnold — you can't buy that kind of experience. And that's why I've been asked to help. We are not looking to break down the England team's discipline — we are going to try and match it."

England enjoyed two comfortable wins over the Andhra Pradesh women's state side in their build-up, and perhaps their greatest advantage is that they toured India as recently as 1995. Of their squad of 14, only Charlotte Edwards, Laura MacLeod and Bev Nicholson were not on that trip.

Clare Taylor, the opening bowler and a double international at cricket and football, knows what she is up against. "The wickets are a lot slower in India," she said. "It is a quicker bowler's nightmare, so you have to concentrate on line and length and aim to frustrate them out."

England choose from a full squad, with Edwards, at 17 the youngest, expected to open the batting with Jan Brittin, 38, the oldest. They should prove too powerful, but the weather may be a hindrance. Not a ball was bowled in the two pool B matches yesterday and prospects of play remain threatened.

ENGLAND: K Smithies (East Midlands, captain), J Brittin (Surrey), J Cassar (East Midlands), C Connor (Sussex), B Daniels (West Midlands) C Edwards (East Anglia), K Leng (Yorkshire), L MacLeod (Lancs and Cheshire), S Metcalfe (Yorkshire), B Nicholson (Yorkshire), H Plimmer (Yorkshire), S Redfern (Derbyshire) M Reynard (Yorkshire) C Taylor (Yorkshire)

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hickman goes his own way

■ **SWIMMING:** James Hickman, the world short-course champion and Olympic finalist, has parted from his coach, Dave Calleja, after a series of disputes, ending one of the most successful partnerships in British swimming.

News of the rift comes as Hickman prepares to qualify for the world championships in Australia next month, at the four-day British championships which start in Sheffield tomorrow.

■ **BOWLS: Graham Robertson, the holder, and John Price, who has won the title three times, will meet in the semi-finals of the CIS (Insurance) Scottish Masters at Coatbridge today. In the quarter-finals, Robertson beat Robert Marshall, the Scottish indoor singles champion, 7-4, 4-7, 7-4 and Price defeated David Gourlay, the 1996 world indoor singles champion, 7-4, 7-6.**

■ **HOCKEY:** Soma Singh, 32, who won 65 outdoor and 14 indoor caps for England, announced his retirement yesterday from international hockey. After spending one day in a training camp he decided that he could not spare the time to prepare for the World Cup in Holland and the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia next year.

■ **RUGBY UNION: Conor McGuinness, the St Mary's College scrum half, is not available for selection for Ireland's match against Italy at Bologna on Saturday week because of a shin stress fracture. The team will be announced today.**

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is an illustration of an extension "splinter" bid:

Dealer South · Love all · Rubber bridge

North:
♠ 4 3
♥ K J 8 6 5 4
♦ A K 10 3
♣ 5

West:
♠ J 10
♥ A 3
♦ Q 7 6 4 2
♣ K Q 10 9

East:
♠ A Q 8 6 5
♥ —
♦ J 9 8 5
♣ J 7 3 2

South:
♠ K 9 7 2
♥ Q 10 9 7 2
♦ —
♣ A 8 6 4

S	W	N	E
Pass	1D	1H	1S
4D (1)	Pass	4H	5D
?			

What should South bid?

(1) South's Four Diamond bid was a splinter bid, showing diamond shortage and good trump support. Normally, splinters show a singleton. In this sequence, Two Diamonds by South would be just a general forcing bid, so Three Diamonds at rubber bridge would be a singleton-showing splinter. Hence, Four Diamonds is a void-showing splinter.

South was Irving Gordon, a successful rubber bridge player and sometime partner of Boris Schapiro in the Macallan Pairs. Many players would bid over Five Diamonds with the South hand, but Gordon correctly passed. It is the old theme — do not bid your hand twice. You have already described a hand with a void diamond and good heart support. Have you got anything more? No, so shut up and leave the decision to your partner.

North knew what to do when Five Diamonds came round to him. He doubled and East-West went for 1,100.

Note that if the ace of spades had been over the king, Five Diamonds still goes three or four off with Five Hearts one off.

☐ *The Times Book of Bridge 1*, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Fide championship

There are four British representatives in the Fide championship at Groningen. In the first round, grandmaster Peter Wells, of London, faces Boris Alterman, of Israel. Grandmasters Nigel Short, Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler have all been seeded to the second round. Each match in the early stages consists of just two games, with fast time limit games available as a tie-breaking procedure, should it prove necessary.

The reigning Fide champion is Anatoly Karpov, of Russia, who was in London last week promoting his new Disney book of chess, in which characters such as Mickey Mouse and Goofy introduce young players to the game. Karpov is guaranteed over $750,000 in prize money already, since he is directly seeded to the final. I believe that his main rival for the title is the Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand.

In order to gain some much needed practice, Karpov has just contested a six-game match in Indonesia, consisting of blindfold games, fast games and normal time limit games. He was not entirely successful and could only manage a 3-3 draw against a middle-ranking grandmaster. Here is one of Karpov's blindfold losses.

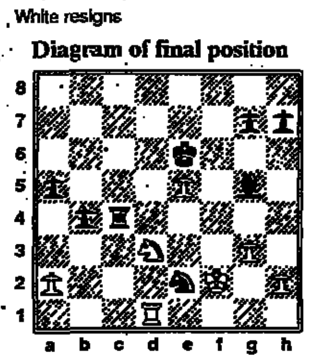
White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Utut Adianto
Jakarta 1997

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	e4	c5
4	d5	Nf6
5	Nc3	b5
6	Bf4	Ba6
7	f3	e6
8	dxe6	Qxd1+
9	Kxd1	b4
10	exf7+	Kxf7
11	Na4	Nc6
12	b3	Rd8+
13	Ke1	Nd7
14	Rd1	Be7
15	Bc7	Nd4
16	Bxd8	Rxd8
17	Bxc4+	Bxc4
18	bxc4	Ne5
19	Nb2	Rd6
20	Ne2	Bh4+
21	g3	Nexf3+
22	Kf2	Bf6
23	Nd3	Ra6
24	Nxd4	Nxd4
25	Rd2	Bg5
26	Rb2	Ra3
27	Nxc5	Rc3
28	Rd1	Rxc4
29	Nd3	Ke6
30	e5	a5
31	Re2	Nxe2

White resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PAPAUMU
a. An evergreen shrub
b. A voluminous skirt
c. Sago porridge

ROESTI
a. Fried potatoes
b. A Black Forest hut
c. Alexander technique variation

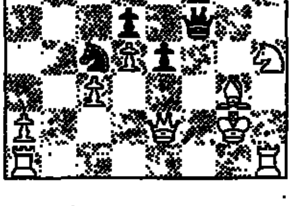
ROGERENE
a. A loose woman
b. Hair cream
c. A sectarian

OKHRANA
a. A curry spice
b. A class of yacht
c. Secret police

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to play. This position is from the game Ni Hua — Simonovic, Beijing, 1997. Black is a piece down, but the white king has been completely stripped of pawn cover. How did Black now capitalise on the open files?

Solution on page 46

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

World Series Cup

Australia v South Africa

SYDNEY (South Africa won toss): South Africa beat Australia by 45 runs

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten c Warne b Reiffel	0
H H Gibbs run out	15
L Klusener c Gilchrist b Moody	17
*W J Cronje run out	2
J H Kallis st Gilchrist b M E Waugh	27
J N Rhodes run out	42
S M Pollock c Moody b M E Waugh	18
B M McMillan run out	13
†D J Richardson not out	18
P L Symcox not out	4
Extras (lb 5, w 8, nb 1)	14
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	170

A A Donald did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-36, 3-40, 4-44, 5-105, 6-125, 7-140, 8-161

BOWLING: Reiffel 10-1-18-1; Bichel 5-0-26-0; Moody 8-3-10-1; Harvey 7-0-36-0; Warne 10-0-38-0, M E Waugh 10-0-39-2

AUSTRALIA

M J DiVenuto c Pollock b Klusener	6
M E Waugh c Pollock b Symcox	45
*S R Waugh c Richardson b Klusener	0
R T Ponting c Kirsten b Klusener	15
M G Bevan c Rhodes b McMillan	19
†A C Gilchrist not out	29
T M Moody lbw b Symcox	0
I J Harvey lbw b McMillan	1
P R Reiffel run out	1
S K Warne c Gibbs b Klusener	5
A J Bichel c McMillan b Klusener	0
Extras (lb 3, nb 1)	4
Total (39.1 overs)	125

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-12, 3-38, 4-79, 5-97, 6-97, 7-100, 8-104, 9-123

BOWLING: Pollock 8-1-25-0; Klusener 7.1-0-24-5; Donald 6-0-26-0; McMillan 8-0-29-2; Symcox 10-2-18-2.

Man of the match: L Klusener.

Umpires: P Parker and D Harper

	P	W	L	Pts
South Africa	3	2	1	4
New Zealand	2	1	1	2
Australia	3	1	2	2

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Dallas 13 Carolina 23

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Honved (Hun) 85 (McMahan 31, Dunkin 21) London Towers 70 (Gottried 17, Hamilton 15, Baldi 11) (in Budapest)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Miami 105 New Jersey 97; Orlando 95 Philadelphia 86; Utah 106 Indiana 97; Portland 105 Los Angeles Lakers 99

BOWLS

COATBRIDGE: CIS Scottish Masters: Singles: Quarter-finals: G Robertson (Scot) bt R Marshall (Scot) 7-4, 4-7, 7-4. J Price (Wales) bt D Gourlay (Scot) 7-4, 7-6. R Corsie (Scot) bt A Thomson (Eng) 7-3, 7-6

CURLING

FUSSEN, Germany: European championships (British results and overall placings): Women: Group A: Third round: Scotland 9 Luxembourg 5. Fourth round: Scotland 9 Norway 5. Positions: 1 equal, Scotland and Switzerland. 3 equal, Norway and Luxembourg; 5 equal, France and Italy. Group A2: Third round: 1 equal, Germany, Sweden and Denmark. 4, Finland. 5, Czech Republic. 6, Austria. Group B: Third round: England 14 Holland 7; England 9 Russia 6. Positions: 1, England; 2, Holland; 3, Russia. Men: Group A: Third round: Scotland 10 England 7. Fourth round: England 11 Holland 3, Scotland 8 Austria 6. Positions: Group A1: 1, Scotland. 2 equal, Denmark and Germany. 4 equal, England, Holland and Austria. Group A: 1, Sweden; 2, Finland. 3 equal, Luxembourg and Switzerland. 5, Norway. 6, Italy. Group B: Third round: Wales 12 Bulgaria 3. Wales 8 France 7. Positions: 1, Wales; 2 equal, Russia and France. 4, Czech Republic. 5, Bulgaria

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sheffield Wednesday 2 Barnsley 1

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Southern section: First round: Bristol Rovers 1 Cambridge United 0.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Bradford Park Avenue 1 Leigh RMI 1. Postponed: Great Harwood v Witton. Third qualifying round replay: Margate 5 Corby 1

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Postponed: Shelbourne v Dundalk

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton Town 6 Swindon Town 0

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham City 2 Nottingham Forest 0. First division: Leicester City 1 Oldham Athletic 0

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Burton 0 Nottingham Forest 5, Chelsea 2 Wimbledon 2, Swansea 2 Brentford 2, West Ham 2 Millwall 0; Watford 6 Northampton 3, Bury 0 Peterborough 2

Second round replay: Manchester Utd 2 Blackburn Rovers 3 (aet: 2-2 after 90min)

SCHOOLS MATCH: Boodle and Dunthorne Cup: Quarter-final: Brentwood 0 Bolton 5

GOLF

JAKARTA: Johnnie Walker Super Tour: First-round scores: 67: N Faldo (GB), J Parnevik (Swe) 69: E Els (SA) 70: I Woosnam (GB) F Casas (Phil) 72: Boonchu Ruangkit (Thai) 74: M Nasim (Indo) 77: Hong Chia-yuh (Taiwan)

HAINES CITY, Florida: US PGA Tour qualifying tournament: Leading final scores (top 38 finishers earned exemption for 1998 PGA Tour, United States unless stated) 407: S Verplank 66, 64, 67, 70, 69, 71 413: B McCallister 67, 70, 68, 72, 66, 70 416: L Porter 70, 71, 67, 69, 71, 68 S Ames (Trin) 70, 68, 69, 69, 70, 70 417: S McRoy 69, 71, 69, 71, 68, 69, F Langham 72, 71, 68, 68, 66, 72 418: J McGovern 75, 66, 68, 69, 72, 68; S Skinner 71, 70, 66, 73, 69, 69 419: B Fleisher 69, 72, 69, 69, 71, 69, R Coughlan (Ire) 73, 66, 70, 70, 71, 69; B Gilder 67, 72, 69, 74, 68, 69, V Veazey 73, 68, 66, 71, 71, 70 J Riegger 70, 69, 70, 72, 68, 70; H Royer 67, 71, 69, 70, 71, 71, G Hill 69, 67, 69, 73, 69, 72 K Jones 72, 70, 67, 64, 71, 75 420: N Fasth (Swe) 73, 67, 74, 72, 63, 71, K Wentworth 72, 69, 68, 73, 68, 70; J P Hayes 71, 69, 67, 74, 66, 73 421: J Estes 71, 72, 71, 71, 70, 66; S Jurgensen 74, 67, 67, 73, 69, 71, K Nolan (Ire) 71, 70, 68, 70, 70, 72; E Toledo (Mex) 71, 72, 70, 70, 66, 72, T Pernice 71, 69, 67, 70, 70, 74, T Conley 70, 73, 73, 71, 69, 65 422: C Dennis 71, 72, 69, 74, 66, 70 B Hughes (Aus) 70, 73, 67, 74, 68, 70; J Morse 74, 70, 70, 72, 66, 70; M Weir (Can) 71, 68, 69, 72, 71, 71, C Barlow 76, 67, 70, 71, 71, 67, D Pride 72, 68, 69, 72, 69, 72, J Gallagher 71, 67, 69, 73, 69, 73 423: M Wurtz 75, 69, 66, 76, 67, 70, B Gage 69, 77, 66, 69, 70, 72; L Gooch 69, 68, 70, 71, 73, 72, B Friend 76, 69, 76, 69, 70, 63, T Loustalot 71, 71, 69, 68, 69, 75, I Steel 69, 75, 72, 72, 67, 69 Did not qualify: 424: B Bateman 74, 69, 68, 74, 68, 71, J Haegoman (Swe) 72, 68, 75, 67, 70, 72; J Delsing 69, 72, 71, 71, 71, 70; C Riley 73, 69, 69, 73, 66, 74, P O'Malley (Aus) 70, 70, 68, 74, 74, 68; C Rymer 71, 72, 74, 73, 68, 66, C Kanada 75, 67, 71, 71, 73, 67

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Sunday: Florida 5 Washington 4, Chicago 3 Edmonton 3 (OT). Monday: New York Rangers 3 Phoenix 1; Montreal 4 Colorado 2; Toronto 3 Dallas 0, St Louis 5 Vancouver 1.

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles 2 Manchester Storm 2 (OT)

RUGBY UNION

University match

Oxford	17	Cambridge	29

Oxford University: Tries: Booth, Spicer. Cons: Kelaher 2. Pen: Kelaher. Cambridge University: Tries: Bramley, Denney, Surridge, Waine. Cons: Surridge 3. Pen: Surridge.

(at Twickenham)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: London and the South East: Third round: Lord Wandsworth Coll 20 Whitgift 0, Tonbridge 19 Eltham 14, Framlingham 11 Bishop Stortford HS 3. Midlands: Fourth round: Bromsgrove 31 Mount St Mary's 5, Bedford Modern 27 Old Swinford Hosp 19. North: Fourth round: RGS Newcastle 0 QEGS Wakefield 15. South West: Fourth round: Colston's 48 St Brendan's VI Form Coll 0. Daily Mail Under-15 Cup: First round: Marshead US 10 Solihull 24, John Cleveland Coll 12 Northampton Sch for Boys 14, Warwick 12 Lancaster Boys 7, RGS Worcester 19 King Edward VI, Aston 14; Maidstone GS 10 John Fisher 29; St Ignatius 32 Saffron Walden 12, RGS Guildford 58 Portsmouth GS 5, Kingsbridge Comm 15 Newquay Tretherras 10, Forest Sch 31 Sir William Borlase 5, Crypt GS 43 Windsor Boys 0; Penair 45 Plymouth Coll 5; Watford GS 0 St Paul's 22, Whitgift 31 Bishop's Stortford HS 8, Mill Hill 5 Cottle's 22; Lichfield Friary 9 Nunnery Wood 19, Sponne 17 Bedford Modern 34

SNOOKER

BINGEN: German Open: Last 16: A Drago (Malta) bt Q Hann (Aus) 5-3, R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J Wattana (Thai) 5-2; J Burnett (Scot) bt G Wilkinson (Eng) 5-4, J Higgins (Scot) bt M Clark (Eng) 5-2.

WEIGHTLIFTING

CHANG MAI, Thailand: World championships (overall results): Men: 70kg: 1, Z Vanev (Bul) 355kg, 2, Zhan Xugang (China) 352.5; 3, Wan Jianhui (China) 340.0. Women: 54kg: 1, Meng Xianjuan (China) 205kg, 2, Song Hui Ri (N Kor) 195, 3, S Detsaeng (Thai) 195. 59kg: 1, Patmawati (Indo) 212.5kg; 2, S Khasserapom (Thai) 210, 3, Naw Ju Ni (Burma) 207.5

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup Champions' League

Group A

Galatasaray v Parma (7.45)
Sparta Prague v B Dortmund (7.45)

Group B

FC Kosice v Feyenoord (7.45)
Juventus v Manchester Utd (7.45)

Group C

Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev (7.45)
PSV Eindhoven v Barcelona (7.45)

Group D

Olympiakos FC v Rosenborg (7.45)
Real Madrid v FC Porto (7.45)

Group E

Bayern Munich v IFK Gothenburg (7.45)
Paris Saint-Germain v Besiktas (7.45)

Group F

Bayer Leverkusen v AS Monaco (7.45)
Sporting Lisbon v Lierse SK (7.45)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FA XI v Ryman League (at Kingstonian FC)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Altrincham.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Corby v Ilkeston. Salisbury v Bashley; Havant v Dorchester

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton v Queens Park Rangers (2.0), Ipswich v Southampton (7.0); Portsmouth v Oxford Utd (7.0), Wimbledon v Arsenal (at Plough Lane, 2.0), Watford v Swindon (at Northwood FC).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Stoke (at Widnes RL, 7.0). First division: Middlesbrough v Bolton (7.0), Port Vale v Wolverhampton (7.0). Second division: Barnsley v Carlisle (7.0), Blackpool v Wrexham (7.0), Rochdale v Bradford (7.0), Rotherham v Stockport (7.0); Shrewsbury v Lincoln (7.0), York v Sheffield Utd (7.0). Third division: Wigan v Chester (7.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Sligo v Home Farm

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Jarrow Roofing v RTM Newcastle

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey v Greenwich

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division north: Toddington v Bedford

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Continental Star v Massey Ferguson

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Cup: Second round, first leg: Wolverhampton v Cradley Town.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stowmarket v Histon.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Cowes Sports v Downton; Romsey v Gosport

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Chichester v Wick; Littlehampton v Selsey. John O'Hara League Cup: Second round: Eastbourne Town v Ringmer

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: West Bromwich v Manchester City; Torquay v Bristol City; Tottenham v Reading, Enfield v Bristol Rovers

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle Eagles v Manchester Giants (7.30). Classic Cola National Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Thames Valley Tigers v Birmingham Bullets (8.0).

BOWLS: Scottish Masters (in Coatbridge)

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5/1 1-0 7/1
13/2 2-0 14/1
7/1 2-1 12/1
12/1 3-0 40/1
14/1 3-1 40/1
33/1 3-2 40/1
11/2 0-0 11/2
5/1 1-1 5/1
18/1 2-2 18/1
Other scores on request.
DOUBLE RESULT
H/TIME F/TIME
JUVENTUS.. JUVENTUS 7/4
JUVENTUS.. DRAW 14/1
JUVENTUS.. MAN. UTD. 33/1
DRAW JUVENTUS 4/1
DRAW DRAW 4/1
DRAW MAN. UTD. 15/2
MAN. UTD.. JUVENTUS 25/1
MAN. UTD.. DRAW 14/1
MAN. UTD.. MAN. UTD. 6/1
Bets void if match not completed.
FIRST GOALSCORER
5/1....INZAGHI (J)
11/2....FONSECA (J)
11/2....COLE (M)
7/1....SHERINGHAM (M)
8/1....SCHOLES (M)
8/1....ZIDANE (J)
14/1....PECCHIA (J)
16/1....GIGGS (M)
20/1....DI LIVIO (J)
11/2....NO GOALSCORER
Other players on request.
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Sadly, McEnroe, it is sport no longer

SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

No, really, I am right, am I not? It really is the most perfect of all sport's pleasures. It is the moment when the script goes wrong. When the script is torn up and thrown away, and sport goes spiralling off into the wild new wander.

Moments when you really do not believe what is taking place before your eyes. Moments in which the balance of power in sport is changed forever. Moments of fluke, moments of skill, of individual inspiration and corporate dementia, moments of fear and trembling, moments of disaster.

The sporting round is a pretty predictable business, but there is a difference between predictability and certainty. I do not know the result. That is the secret of sport, the reason it retains so powerful a grip on the world's imagination.

Everyone knows that Manchester United will win the league again. But what if they don't? What if? Those are the two most potent words in the entire lexicon of sport.

It was the "what-if" factor that inspired the rhapsodies that followed the England rugby union team's performance against New Zealand last weekend. The feeling that the England team was discovering itself, that English rugby was reinventing itself; that history was being made, as we watched.

An easy victory for New Zealand. Nothing was more predictable than that. Predictable, but not certain. Of course New Zealand were going to win — but what if they didn't? What if?

It is important to separate the "what-if" factor from the underdog victory. These are overlapping phenomena. India's victory in the cricket World Cup in 1983 was a wonderful underdog win, and also a perfect "what-if" moment. Sri Lanka's win in the last World Cup owed nothing to underdoggery. But it was another perfect "what-if".

The victory of Cameroon over the then World Cup holders, Argentina, in 1990 falls into both categories. The emergence of the Dutch total football side of the 1970s was about overdoggery, but it was also pure "what-if". Both events had the same tingle, as plain fact and perfect incredulity fought for mastery.

Few things were more predictable in sport than Bjorn Borg's hegemony over Wimbledon. But extraordinary serial champions such as Borg transcend their own predictability. As we watched him, we participated in the construction of a legend.

Surely he can't win for the fifth time. What if he did? What if? Treading hard on his heels, another legend, one who was to mix predictable victory with unpredictable behaviour. John McEnroe, whose style ranged from heavenly perfection to the deepest pits of the world, was another who possessed the "what-if" factor in overplus.

Odd, then, to find him strutting his middle-aged stuff in a seniors tournament at the Albert Hall last weekend, even as England were what-iffing their heroics at Twickenham. McEnroe had yet another rematch with Borg, and beat Henri Leconte in the final.

He also managed to have a few rows with officials, and explained afterwards that he was obliged by his contract to throw a certain number of tantrums. The exact placement of tongue *vis-à-vis* cheek was not revealed.

To say that it was all too predictable is not so much beside the point as to miss it by about 500 miles. The seniors tour is supposed to be predictable. It is not supposed to be sport.

The seniors tour is a pleasant enough exercise in nostalgia. That is true for golf as well as tennis. Of course the players are trying but, of course, victory does not seriously matter one way or the other.

The purpose of any seniors tour is entertainment. It is entertainment dressed up in sporting garment, rather like professional wrestling. There is more real sporting passion in a single episode of *Gladiators* than there is in a year on the seniors tour.

That is not to demean the seniors tour. It *is* entertainment, and sometimes it is good entertainment. The absence of seriousness, of blood and guts, makes for a relaxing evening, with a fair number of behind-the-back shots and through-the-legs retrievals.

When you go to a seniors event, you will have a nice time. But you will also be entering a zone in which the "what-if" factor cannot survive. The basic currency of sport is unpredictability and its golden sovereigns are the pure moments of "what-if". You think the seniors tour is about sport? You cannot be serious.

United forward breaks his silence to talk to **Neil Harman**

Cole makes striking impression

PAUL COUSANS

Cole, quiet for so long, reflects on his troubles, his critics and his thrilling revival at Manchester United

Andy Cole hadn't talked like this for three years, the proud and private man who did not see the need to share his opinions with the world. This was football's ultimate paradox, an introvert in the role where emotions run riot. Now, he is completely at ease with himself and the moment has come to open up.

A striker has always required an acute sense of timing. Cole steps out in the Stadio Delle Alpi tonight seeking to lead Manchester United to a sixth straight victory in the European Cup Champions' League in such beguiling form that he can smile at those who said United would repent at leisure the haste at his signing.

For many who would not be convinced, even if he became the Footballer of the Year, Cole will never be the quintessential United Red. Even though his record stands critical comparison with the famous No 9s in United's past — he reached 48 goals in 87 appearances, at Anfield on Saturday — and even though Alex Ferguson does not regret a penny of his £7 million investment and Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, fears Cole above all others tonight, the doubting voices remain the most strident. Cole has learnt better than any striker that he is only as good as his next goal.

The newspaper on top of the pile in front of him reads: "Cole-lath" — a reflection on his display at Anfield, which took this season's collection in the FA Carling Premiership to 15. Not so long ago, after he had broken both of his legs, they were saying that the doctors must have put them back on the wrong way, so inept was he. He recites that story without a hint of anger, for Cole does not believe in prostrating himself on the altar of press acclaim.

"It is time to say something," he reflected. "For a long time, I was adamant that I did not want to talk. I was being coated so much, all the time, but I sat down and said to myself on Sunday that I have worked hard, why shouldn't I be proud of what I've done?"

The change in Cole since January 1995 has had to be witnessed to be believed. "I am a lot wiser. It's not all about getting behind defenders or running off their shoulders, it's about being a player. It feels so good to know that I can actually play the game."

At Newcastle United, he scored with such blissful certainty — 54 goals in 70 league games — that, when he arrived at Old Trafford, the earth was expected to turn on its axis, only for the hero of one club to find himself thrust into a team where another player, Eric Cantona, was already *the* star. The insinuations that have trailed Cole from his formative years at Arsenal continued. Cantona didn't rate this new colleague — the body language gave the game away — yet not a single word will Cole have said against his erstwhile colleague.

"I have had to put up with rumours all my career," Cole said. "People are going to think and say what they want about Eric and I can't stop them, but we never had a single cross word and our partnership was pretty successful. I have got two championship medals and an FA Cup-winner's medal to show for it.

"It was hard for me at first. I was scoring virtually every week for Newcastle, but I came to an entirely different club with a different system. I knew it would be hard, I never dodged that and I wanted desperately to play for Manchester United. I didn't realise how much was expected of me, how much being a United player means and how much it can take out of you.

"I was an easy target because of the club I had joined. I might have got away with it somewhere else. I knew I had to persevere and I did; I have been through bad times, but I never let my head drop. The flak I got was unbelievable. I was so low at times, I didn't know whether I was coming or going, but I was lucky to have good people who believed in me. I was not one who would run to the press when things were going well and I didn't want help from them when the times weren't so good — but I would love to know why certain people in the media dislike me so much. It's not as if I have been a bad player. I have never understood why I've taken so much stick and I'm not going to lie and say that it didn't hurt.

"A lot of people have said I didn't help myself with my attitude. Fair enough, but I am a proud person. I have knuckled down and I'm getting my rewards. I came here to learn my trade and *now* I feel confidence in myself. I go out there every game thinking, 'you can score today', whereas before it was, 'if you don't take your first chance, they'll be on your back'. If I miss the first chance now, I know I'll get a second. It's about trusting my instincts. I'm not in this to score pretty goals because that might be expected of a United player. But I do want to score proper striker's goals — that's why I've never taken a penalty."

> 'I worked hard, why shouldn't I be proud of what I've done?'

Proper or not, Cole is the man of the moment with a championship and European Cup beckoning United, the World Cup enticing England. He has not figured in any of Glenn Hoddle's World Cup squads and so rates his chances of making the trip to France as "slim".

"I *didn't* make it when I was scoring all those goals for Newcastle and it's the club that comes first," he said. "What this team can achieve could be unreal. I'm only 26; I feel like I haven't reached my peak yet, maybe that will come at 28. The way I feel, I can score goals against the best — that's the great thing."

Italian job, page 44

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

PAPAUMU

(a) A small evergreen tree or shrub, *Griselinia littoralis*, belonging to the family Cornaceae, native to New Zealand, and distinguished by thick, ovate leaves with shiny upper surfaces. The Maori name.

ROESTI

(a) A Swiss style of fried potatoes (variously taken as singular and plural). "The most typical dish of Zurich is something known as *g'schnetzeltes*. It comes served with noodles or roesti."

ROGERENE

(c) A member of a small religious sect founded by John *Rogers* (1648-1721) in Connecticut, opposed to some of the formal practices of churches and participation in military service. "A contagious disorder is now raging among the sect known by the name of Rogerene Quakers in Grotan."

OKHRANA

(c) An organisation of political police set up in 1881 in tsarist Russia after the assassination of Alexander II to maintain the security of the state and suppress revolutionary activities. In Russian, literally, "guarding, protection". "The exact number, local distribution, and cost of the okhrana are known to no single official."

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TELEVISION CHOICE

Leopards in the dark

Big cat napping (BBC1, 8.00pm)

Wildlife Specials: Leopard
BBC1, 8.00pm

David Attenborough observes that the leopard is the least known of the African big cats. This is because they are most active at night, which has made their movements difficult to follow. Even the most resourceful wildlife film-makers have had to admit defeat. But now the technology is there and Owen Newman and Amanda Barrett have made telling use of it. By using a special camera, and infra-red lights, they were able to film leopards in total darkness. They followed two leopards over three years and the result is one of the fullest accounts yet of the animal's nocturnal activities. The film reveals how leopards use darkness to hide their movements as they inch towards their victims. Sometimes, however, leopards let their approach be heard, throwing prey into a panic that makes them easy to ambush.

Modern Times: Guinnessty
BBC2, 9.00pm

Guinnessty/dynasty may be a good pun but, as Philippa Walker's film reveals, the connection between the Guinness family and the company its forbear founded in the 18th century is becoming increasingly remote. So much so that there is only one Guinness still on the payroll, in the relative obscurity of the personnel department of the Runcorn office. But whether together or separately family and company have had colourful, not to say scandalous, histories and Walker does them full justice. Among her contributors are Maureen Guinness, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, at 90 the doyenne of the family and a long-standing friend of the Queen Mother. We hear, too, from Jonathan Guinness, who earned notoriety as chairman of the right-wing Monday Club and Ernest Saunders, whose take-over dealings led to the shame of a prison sentence.

Secret Lives: Lester Piggott
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The subjects of this series are usually dead, which means that their dark corners can be safely explored without fear of libel. But although Lester Piggott is very much alive, there has been no holding back. This *is* a far from flattering portrait, presenting him as ruthless and selfish, obsessed with money, mean, contemptuous of authority and a womaniser. And there is the little matter of the prison sentence for tax evasion. But none of this, even to those of us with little interest in racing, is new. It is not so much a secret life revealed, as a very public one regurgitated. At the same time proper tribute is paid to Piggott's exceptional achievements on the racecourse. Willie Carson, a rival jockey who has little time for Piggott as a person, describes his 1977 Derby triumph as "mouthwatering".

The X Files
BBC1, 10.15pm

There is consternation in tonight's episode when Gillian Anderson's agent Scully discovers she has inoperable cancer. Surely the show is not about to lose its joint lead? The prognosis is certainly bleak. "If the cancer pushes into my brain", announces Scully, "there's statistically a zero chance of survival". But it turns out that Scully is only one of a group of women with similar symptoms. It is the cue for a typical *X Files* plot, notable for its dark complexity and for setting the words "government" and "conspiracy" in close proximity. Not for the first time, the FBI agents find themselves investigating the actions not of some threat to the state but the state itself. Meanwhile, Scully lies desperately ill in a hospital bed, leaving you to guess who can extricate her. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

John Mortimer Presents Sensational British Trials: The Case of the Dandelion Killer
Radio 2, 9.30pm

This may not be at the cutting edge of innovative radio but if there is one thing better than a good crime story it is a good crime story climaxed with a juicy trial. Mortimer, with his background in chambers, seems especially to relish introducing this tale of Herbert Rowe Armstrong, a solicitor accused of the slow poisoning of his wife. The prosecution painted Armstrong as a man who cold-bloodedly set out to punish anyone who did him down, whether in reality or in Armstrong's imagination. But the longer the trial went on the less black and white the case became and the outcome was a jury verdict almost as sensational as the trial.

The Garden: Spring
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

This programme is about as much of spring as we are likely to get in December so let us be thankful for the start of a four-part series on the seasons as they affect our gardens. One could be frosty and suggest that the sort of audience that is available to hear programmes at this time of day, mainly the retired, might also be most likely to want *Daily Service* on long wave at the same time, but who would a scheduler be? Spring is a time when gardens rear up to attack the complacent by thrusting grass, weeds and hedges upwards and outwards at a tremendous rate. But spring has connotations to do with renewal and optimism, which is what makes it such a welcome time of the year. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session **8.30** Trade Update **8.40** John Peel. Includes a session by Justin Berkovi **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Folk on 2 with Jim Lloyd **9.00** Blue Collar **9.30** John Mortimer Presents Sensational British Trials: The Case of the Dandelion Killer. See Choice **10.00** Auntie's Family Album **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra with David McNeil **7.30** Football Night. Includes Juventus v Manchester United and Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev in the European Cup Champions' League. **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Chris Evans **10.00** (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Graham Dene **1.00pm** (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00** (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Caimin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Grass is Singing **7.30** Meridian Live **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Westway **8.30** Everywoman **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** The Farming World **9.30** Science File **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** One Planet **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Sports International **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Soundbyte **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Megamix **3.00** News; News in German (648 only) **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Performance **3.30** Everywoman **4.00** News **4.15** From Our Own Correspondent **4.30** The World Today; News in German (648 only) **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** The Works; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Multitrack X-Press **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** On Screen **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Multitrack X-Press **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Omnibus **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Meridian Books **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Journey to the Centre of the Atom **3.45** Children in Conversation **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey. Including the Morning March and Breakfast Baroque **9.00** Henry Kelly. Michael Berry prepares rich fish pie and Record of the Week features the best of the new releases **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Lalo (Cello Concerto in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.30** Newsnight **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning **8.00** Evening Concert. Berlioz (Overture, Les Francs-Juges); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat); Beethoven (String Quartet No 3 in C); Brahms (Symphony No 3) **10.00** Michael Mappin. Includes at 11.35 Nocturne **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Mozart (Sonata in D); Kodaly (Dances of Galanta); Grieg (Ave Maris Stella); Telemann (Paris Quartet No 1 in D); Elgar (Introduction and Allegro); Tchaikovsky (Suite No 4 in G, Mozartiana)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 2 in F); Schumann (Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor); Schubert (Gesänge des Harfners); Liszt (Prometheus)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Strauss (Vienna Festival Fanfare); Schubert (Overture in the Italian Style); Glazunov (Violin Concerto); John Ward (My Breast I'll Set Upon a Silver Stream); Finzi (Dies Natalis); Schumann (Papillons); Grieg (Violin Sonata in C minor, excerpts); Beethoven (Wellington's Victory)
12.00 *Composer of the Week: Goehr*
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham. John Bingham, piano. *Beethoven (Variations in F); Prokofiev* (Piano Sonata No 8)
2.00 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from Ely Cathedral
5.00 In Tune, with Sean Rafferty
6.00 *Rush Hour Concert: Voices at the Wigmore Hall.* Iain Burnside presents vocal recitals. Nancy Argenta, soprano, Eugene Asti, piano. Includes Haydn (Three English Canzonets); Mendelssohn (Pagenlied; Nachlass; Gruss; Auf Flügeln des Gesanges; Frühlingsglaube; Nachtlied; Wanderlied); Brahms (Ständchen; Da Unten im Tale, *Das Mädchen Spricht*; Es Steht ein Lind; Och Moder, Ich Well en Ding Han); Wolf (Mignons 1-3); Geoffrey Bush (Three Elizabethan Songs)
7.00 Cocktails. *Lew Stone and his Band (3/8) (r)*
7.30 Performance on 3. A concert given last February at the Festival Hall, London, by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Michael Schonwandt. Sibelius (Suite Karelia); Diana Burrell (Symphonies of Flocks; Herds and Shoals, BBC commission: premiere); Nielsen (Symphony No 4, Inextinguishable)
9.20 Postscript: Young Screenwriters. Christopher Cook talks to Kevin Smith, the writer and director of *Clerks, Mall Rats* and *Chasing Amy* (2/4)
9.45 Goehr at 65. A selection from Alexander Goehr's *The Death of Moses*
10.00 Ensemble. The second of two recitals by Janet Hilton, clarinet, and Ronan O'Hora, piano. Includes *Mendelssohn (Andante and Rondo* capriccioso); Weber (Grand duo concertant); *Mendelssohn (Songs without Words: in E; in A* flat; in C; in G; in A minor, in A)
10.45 Night Waves. *Humphrey Carpenter discusses* Francesca *Zambello's new production of* Benjamin Britten's *Paul Bunyan* at the Royal Opera. *Plus first-night news from Stratford, where* Philip Voss stars in *The Merchant of Venice*
11.30 Composer of the Week: Cole Porter (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Richard Niles. The first part of a concert featuring vocalist Dennis Rowland and the BBC Big Band at Ronnie Scott's in Birmingham
***1.00 Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod*

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves and guests
10.00 (FM) News; The Garden: Spring. See Choice
10.00 (LW) News; *Daily Service*
10.15 (LW) On this Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 *Gardeners' Question Time* (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with John Waite
12.25pm Ballylenon. *The comedy drama series by* Christopher Fitz-Simon (2/4) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Who Sings the Hero: Under Siege, by *Melissa Murray. The story of Dr Pauline Cutting, an volunteer surgeon who worked with the casualties of the war in Lebanon in the 1980s* (2/3)
2.45 Treasure Islands, with Michael Rosen. Helen *Cresswell and* Diana Wynne-Jones join a voyage through fantastic fiction
3.00 News; *The Afternoon Shift*, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. *Paul Gambaccini reviews Tomorrow Never Dies, the new Bond film starring Pierce Brosnan, and a new thriller, Persons Unknown*
4.45 Short Story: Frozen Words, by Elizabeth Buchan. Read by Mark Bonner
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Wildbrain. Lionel *Kelleway presents the first semi-final of the natural* history quiz (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Mysterious Ways. The *Times* columnist Libby Purves explores the legacy of a Christian millennium. A look at the Church's long monopoly on learning and its role in the oppression of women (5/6)
8.05 A Night with — Lesley Garrett. The singer recalls some of her experiences of night (5/6)
8.30 Giants' Shoulders. The *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg talks to Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas about the achievements of the chemist Michael Faraday (4/6)
9.00 Costing the Earth. An investigation into the stresses and strains of living in a modern city (4/9)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Candide. Anton Lesser reads Voltaire's classic satire (3/8)
11.00 The (Almost) Accidental Adventures of Bell and Todd. John Eggleston's six-part comedy adventure series with June Whitfield (1/6)
11.15 TV Dinners. A darkly comic tale by Keith Lawes. With Timothy West, Maggie Steed, Jonathan Coy and Harry Capehorn (1/6)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Hair in the Gate. The last episode of Clive Coleman's comedy series set in the world of arts broadcasting (4/4) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Metroland. Written and read by Julian Barnes (8/10) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

Constantly surprising, comfortingly familiar

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

If Mike Reid finds himself treading the boards at Stratford-upon-Avon in the near future, I, for one, won't be in the slightest bit surprised. Those trade-mark tinted sunglasses are on a bit of a roll at the moment. He's back in *EastEnders* ("all right, babe?"); he's the inspiration for Dave Angel, eco-warrior, in *The Fast Show*; and best of all he's Graham, the murdering taxi-driver in *Underworld*. But I'm sure he could fit the odd Touchstone or Autolycus in somewhere.

If he ever does get the call, it will be Andy Hamilton he has to thank. Hamilton attempted many things with **Underworld** (Channel 4) — most of them worked, a few did not — but without doubt he wrote one of the best parts that Reid is ever likely to play. Making Graham a taxi-driver was easy. Reid could whisper his way through that role in his sleep: the chat, the gold jewellery, the comfortable driving shoes. But making Graham a taxi-driving psychopath with a morbid fear of old people? That was genius.

Graham hadn't always been a murderer. "I was a taxi-driver for 17 years, until the traffic got to me — then I became a hit man," he explained a couple of weeks ago. But in Hamilton's black comedy, in style somewhere between Alan Plater and Quentin Tarantino, murdering was definitely what he did best. With Reid's help and mannerisms — the shrug, the smile — "Mind if we stop for some diesel on the way?" became one of the most menacing lines in television drama.

Last night, after a quiet couple of episodes, he was back at his murderous best, disposing of Hainsey, the unliked sidekick whose ill-timed impressions were always likely to get him into trouble. From the moment Jezzard (Kevin McNally), his evil and manipulative gangland boss, told Graham he did a very good one of him "as a really, really old man" his fate was sealed. Hainsey was soon "doing an impression of Elvis — as he is now."

But as the final episode lurched reluctantly to an end, Graham finally got to know what it's like to feel real fear. Jezzard caught up with William (James Fleet) and Susan (Susan Wooldridge) as they visited the dying Aunt Doreen (Annette Crosbie), now in a hospice. He sent Graham in to get them. "But there'll be a lot of old people in there." Indeed there were, old people who eventually cornered him in the patient's lounge. "Get back — or else," he shouted, waving a gun at the advancing ranks. "Or else?," protested Aunt Doreen: "This is a hospice, you moron." Delicious.

Just slightly unfortunately, this was not the end. Jezzard would not die (despite having been blown up and half-drowned) and the episode would not end. On and on it went, ignoring all sort of perfectly feasible opportunities for "The End". Even when all the baddies were finally dead, it still wouldn't. Only when we were certain that Susan and Martin (David Troughton) might live happily ever after, that William and Gilda (Camilla Power) would not and that Susan's builders were happily back on site, did the final credits roll. *Underworld* was flawed and overlong. But it was also magnificently acted and one of the best recent attempts at a horribly difficult genre that I can recall.

As for the splendid Reid, he's already moved on to other things. Which is a shame because a murdering cabbie could be just what **EastEnders** (BBC1) needs as it builds towards the traditionally miserable Walford Christmas. At the moment I'd vote for him "stopping for diesel" with the increasingly tiresome Ian Beale in the back. Possibly accompanied by Mary, the new live-in nanny who's just agreed to work for the sort of money that will have brought tears to the eyes of middle-class parents everywhere.

But alas, Reid is not back as Graham but as Frank, dispensing "babes", drinks ("have one yourself, sweetheart") and wisdom with not altogether customary largesse. "What your old man don't know about motor cars could be written on the back of a match-box," he told Ricky last night, completing the effect with a trademark wobble of the head and a "hah, hah, hah". Goodness, how we miss him.

Anyway, an increasingly flustered Ricky was pleased to see him, and not just because things were getting on top of him at the garage. "If I worked hard enough, I thought it would take my mind off things." "But it doesn't," sighed Frank, who's doing a surprisingly good job of providing a shoulder to cry on.

All this family stuff is very moving, and Sid Owen and Patsy Palmer are still doing a terrific job as the devastated Ricky and Bianca. However, what I'm really looking forward to is a big scene between Frank and that other great Walford whisperer, **Phil**. Which one of them, do you think, will become totally inaudible first?

In a perfect world (or at least a perfect television column) Reid would have provided the commentary for **Picture This: The Chingford Newsreel** (BBC2). After all, the London/Essex borders are pretty much his stamping ground. But instead we had David Piggott, a man who caught a nasty case of the Bob Danvers-Walker's 40 years ago and never really recovered. He's been making an annual Chingford newsreel ever since.

It's an eccentric exercise that would have been easy to mock. But Jonathan Smith, the director, did not, presenting us instead with an affectionate portrait that acknowledged both a man with a rare obsession and the undeniably addictive nature of recent local history. I bet Mike Reid is in there somewhere.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (97861)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (92229)

9.00 Good Living Jane Asher with ideas for Christmas trees (1396774)

9.25 Style Challenge (1202381)

9.50 Kilroy (T) (2940671)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (1727836)

10.55 The Really Useful Show(T) (8719010)

11.35 Change That (3008861)

12.00 News (T) and weather (9466768)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (2733861)

12.35 Give Us A Clue (5340749)

1.00 News (T) and weather (95316)

1.30 Regional News (17575590)

1.40 The Weather Show (86313749)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (49988364)

2.10 Petrocelli With Barry Newman and Rick Nelson (r) (1011294)

3.00 Vets' School Pressure mounts on the students as Fiona Green spays a cat single-handedly (r) (7855)

3.30 Playdays (7849958) **3.50** ChuckleVision (7756294) **4.10** Get Your Own Back (3454774) **4.35** Out of Tune (2658584) **5.00** Newsround (T) (4383279) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (6365107)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (132045)

6.00 News (T) and weather (497)

6.30 Regional News (749)

7.00 Face Value Alice Beer looks at the clothes at the *Tomorrow Never Dies* James Bond premiere. A herbal pill which claims to get rid of beer bellies and why are the tights women like to wear not what most men prefer to see them in (T) (9836)

7.30 Tomorrow's World Peter Snow reports from France on an electric car which supermarket customers drive home with their goods and then automatically return to the depot (T) (861)

8.00 Leopard: A Wildlife Special David Attenborough presents an insight into the nocturnal hunting techniques of the leopard (T) (714331)

8.45 The National Lottery Draw (T) (441126)

9.00 News (T), weather and Lottery Update (6233)

9.30 Absolutely Fabulous Edina has a cliff-hanging encounter with the Almighty during a near-death experience on the slopes of trendy ski resort Val D'Isère (1/2) (r) (T) (286010)

10.14 National Lottery Update (822923)

10.15 The X Files: Memento Mori Scully is diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour, prompting her to search for other women who have endured similar experiences (T) (422590)

11.00 Tom Jones (r) (T) (100861) **WALES: 11.00** Fighting Class (2768) **11.30** Tom Jones (452949) **12.35am** FILM: Next of Kin (535527) **2.15** News (3356530) **2.20** BBC News 24

12.05am Next of Kin (1989) Action thriller, with FILM Patrick Swayze and Liam Neeson. A tough cop is torn between the desire for revenge and doing his duty when his younger brother is killed by a mobster's son. Directed by John Irvin (T) (588459)

1.45 Weather (7357169)

1.50 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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BBC2

6.00am Maths and Computing: Designer Rides (45942) **6.30** The Information Society (63229)

7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (3315958)

7.15 Teletubbies (r) (r) (2502958) **7.40** Penelope Pitstop (r) (8962519) **8.05** It'll Never Work (r) (T) (6084836) **8.30** Model Millie (r) (8544861) **8.45** The Record (6448756) **9.10** The Fugitive (r) (T) (1962958) **10.00** Teletubbies (74381)

10.30 A Canterbury Tale (1944) with Eric FILM Portman and Sheila Sim. Wartime fable about a land girl, an Army sergeant and a GI who meet in a small Kentish village and set out to unmask the man conducting an unusual reign of terror against local women. Directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger (88872)

12.30pm Working Lunch (80855) **1.00** Noddy (r) (50514478) **1.10** The History Hour: St Andrew's; the first off-the-peg fashions (2493010) **2.10** Going, Going, Gone (64676107) **2.40** News (T) (7822126) **2.45** Westminster (T) (4818300) **3.55** News (T) (9831671)

4.00 Ready Steady Cook (590) **4.30** Through the Keyhole (2657855) **4.55** Esther: star-struck children (4594854) **5.25** Today's the Day (6457132) **5.50** Lifeline (r) (798671)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (r) (T) (897652)

6.45 The O Zone (T) (108294)

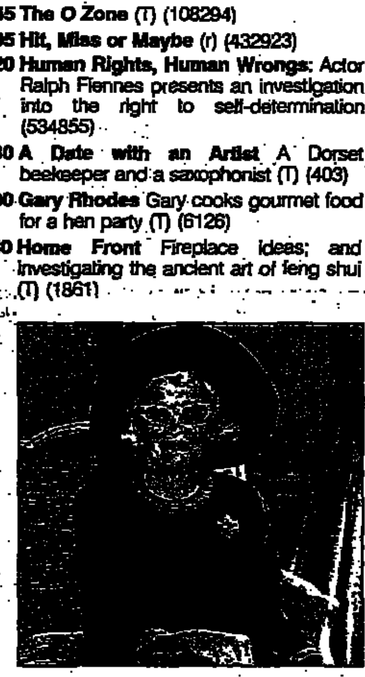
7.05 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (432923)

7.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs: Actor Ralph Fiennes presents an investigation into the right to self-determination (534855)

7.30 A Date with an Artist A Dorset beekeeper and a saxophonist (T) (403)

8.00 Gary Rhodes Gary cooks gourmet food for a hen party (T) (6126)

8.30 Home Front Fireplace ideas; and investigating the ancient art of feng shui (T) (1861)



Guinness dynasty doyenne (9.00pm)

9.00 Modern Times An intimate portrait of the Guinness family dynasty (T) (910039)

9.50 Breaking Point Last in series on marriage guidance (T) (444107)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (307497)

11.15 Prison Weekly Dealing with inmates addicted to drugs and alcohol (801132)

11.45 Human Rights, Human Wrongs (r) (908565)

11.55 Weather (251774)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (78546)

12.30am Learning Zone: Russell Grant (6620817) **12.45** 20th Century History(6590782) **1.10** From a Different Shore (9316782) **2.00** Art and Craft of Movie Making (65481) **4.00** French Experience Rencontres Part One (65053) **5.00** Business and Training (18527)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2881132)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (1391229)

9.55 Regional News (T) (7064671)

10.00 The Time, the Place (78107)

10.30 This Morning (T) (97629861)

12.20pm Regional News (9455652)

12.30 News (T) and weather (5432774)

12.55 Shortland Street (5344565) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (78680126) **1.50** Quisine (91889395) **2.20** Countdown to Christmas (45127010) **2.50** Vanessa (T) (4147861)

3.20 News (1761359)

3.25 Regional News (T) (1660300)

3.30 Tots TV (2276229) **3.40** The Singing Kettle News (8235671) **3.50** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (1743652) **4.20** Neil's Art Attack Scrapbook (T) (3372126) **4.45** The Essential Guide to Christmas (T) (2649836)

5.10 World of Wonder The longest and largest glacier in North America (9401045)

5.40 News (T) and weather (202923)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (951120)

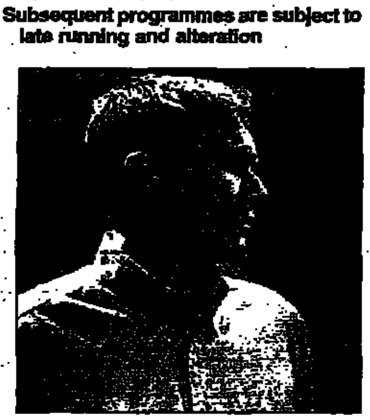
6.25 Regional Weather (426359)

6.30 Regional News (395)

7.00 Emmerdale (T) (4872)

7.30 Champions' League — Live! Bob Wilson presents coverage of Juventus v Manchester United or Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev (T) (22470565)

NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to late running and alteration



Steven Arnold as Ashley (9.45pm)

9.45 Coronation Street Jack's new date delivers a nasty surprise; and Ashley's new house guest vexes Maxine (T) (711565)

10.15 News at Ten (T) Lottery result and weather (809774)

10.45 Regional News (T) (680215)

10.55 Champions' League Highlights Tonight's games, featuring Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev, and Juventus v Manchester United (878300)

11.55 Tales from the Crypt: Only Sin Deep A man gatecrashes a masquerade party hoping to avenge a broken relationship, only to find himself victimised by a masked woman (295958)

12.25am The Making of Alien Ressurrection (5136275)

12.55 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (3504985)

1.25 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (r) (4676782)

1.55 Customs Classified (r) (3338169)

2.40 Champions' League (745459)

4.20 Recollections (24028053)

4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (79150508)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (95184)

5.30 News (66701)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (5344565)

4.45 The Essential Guide to an Alternative Christmas (2649836)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9401045)

6.25 Central News (501869)

6.55-7.00 Lifeline (917039)

11.55 Film: The Ordeal of Bill Carney (669565)

1.50am In Focus (9932188)

4.20 Central Jobfinder '97 (8311891)

5.20 Asian Eye (4566169)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (7453855)

1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (24981328)

4.45 The Essential Guide to an Alternative Christmas (2649836)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9401045)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (85300)

11.55 Jimmy Greaves Sports Arena (295958)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

1.50-2.20 Fashion Police (91889395)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9401045)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (565)

6.30-7.00 Put It to the Test (395)

10.55 Meridian Business Awards (878300)

11.55 Champions' League Highlights (800774)

5.00am Freescreen (95184)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 The Fashion Police (5344565)

4.45 The Essential Guide to an Alternative Christmas (2649836)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9401045)

6.25-7.00 Anglia News (417045)

11.55 Crowded House Live at the Sydney Opera House (800774)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (12039)

9.00 Something So Right (31045)

9.30 Film: Rings on Her Fingers (54364710)

11.05 The Trouble with Kids (8843768)

11.30 Powerhouse (4126)

12.00 Sesame Street (48381)

12.30pm Ricki Lake (75923)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (50523126)

1.15 Tic Toc (50511381)

1.30 Film: They Who Dare (88774)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (923)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (958)

4.30 Pantoland (942)

5.00 5 Pump (9235300)

5.15 Ffeil (9333774)

5.30 Countdown (294)

6.00 Newyddion (419652)

6.10 Heno (802584)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (174497)

7.25 Ffermio (432294)

8.00 Siopa (1294)

8.30 Newyddion (3229)

9.00 Cracker (6403)

10.00 Brookside (613300)

10.35 Babylon 5 (867294)

11.30 Lloyds Bank Film Challenge (903010)

11.40-4.30 Under the Moon (50108942)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (17671)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (12039)

9.00 Something So Right (31045)

9.30 Rings on Her Fingers (1942, b/w) with FILM Henry Fonda and Gene Tierney. A romantic comedy about a penniless clerk who is mistaken for a millionaire by a pair of confidence tricksters. Directed by Rouben Mamoulian (54364710)

11.05 The Trouble with Kids Parenting magazine (3/5) (T) (8843768) **11.30** Powerhouse (T) (4126) **12.00** Sesame Street (48381) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (85039)

1.30 Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie (1952) FILM starring David Wayne. Small-town America as seen through 50 years in the life of the local barber. Directed by Henry King (T) (88774)

3.30 Collectors' Lot The Thimble Society; a garden which is home to a submarine and the tartan museum (T) (923) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (958) **4.30** Countdown (T) (2642923) **4.55** Ricki Lake: Runaway kids talk about life on the streets (T) (5038749) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (294)

6.00 Gamesmaster Computer games magazine presented by Dominik Diamond with Patrick Moore (T) (107)

6.30 Roseanne: One for the Road Roseanne and Dan come home to find Becky and a friend drunk (r) (T) (687)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (904316)

7.50 Innocents Gained (866126)

8.00 Brookside Jacqui has to decide if she's going to break the bad news to the Farnhams. The pressure is beginning to build on Mick as his trail approaches. Is Louise being totally honest with Eleanor and Ollie? (T) (1294)

8.30 The Real Holiday Show Gaby Roslin introduces video diaries made by ordinary holidaymakers. A funeral director and her daughter get away from it all at a health farm, a woman and her daughters revisit Ibiza for the fifth time in two years; and an 86-year-old hopes to fulfil an ambition of a lifetime when she visits Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon (7/8) (T) (3229)

Lester Piggott revealed (9.00pm)

9.00 Secret Lives: Lester Piggott The peerless former jockey's life — warts and all (T) (6403)

10.00 Sister, My Sister (1994) with Joely FILM Richardson, Jodhi May and Julie Walters. A drama, set in provincial France during the 1930s, about the relationship between a family and their two servants, who are the envy of their neighbours. Directed by Nancy Meckler (T) (974749)

11.40 Under the Moon Sports magazine (50108942)

4.30am Springhill Drama set on a Liverpool housing esstate (2679343)

5.35 Schools: Geographical Eye (r) (T) (6256072)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (4596519)

7.30 Milkshake! (7703478) **7.35** Kablam! (9388671) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (7108805)

8.30 WideWorld The realities of daily life in the Victorian countryside (9/10) (8558346)

9.00 Espresso (7250671) **10.00** Exclusive (4615010) **10.30** Close Encounters. The raccoon (r) (T) (3609890)

11.00 Leeza (3607132) **11.50** Double Espresso (90263403) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (4958382) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (1723768)

1.00 5 News Update (88138958) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (4472590) **2.00** 5's Company (3511768)

3.30 Tender Comrade (1943, b/w) starring FILM Ginger Rogers, Robert Ryan and Ruth Hussey. A drama about a group of GI wives who set up house together in order to give each other support while their husbands are fighting in the Second World War. Directed by Edward Dmytryk (9703584)

5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (56060565)

5.30 Whittle Quiz (T) (4045132)

6.00 100 Per Cent (4042045)

6.30 Family Affairs Mel is impressed when she meets Roy's famous friend. Includes a guest appearance by the nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow (T) (4960497)

7.00 Exclusive A James Bond special (5321010)

7.30 Animal Outposts The wildlife on the bleak and barren island of Hormuz, off the south coast of Iran (T) (4959381)

8.00 Instant Gardens William Van Hage attends to a coastal Cornwall garden (5410958)

8.30 5 News (T) (5326565)

Kathleen Turner stars (9.00pm)

9.00 Peggy Sue Got Married (1986) FILM Kathleen Turner and Nicolas Cage star in this comedy drama about a forty-something, about to divorce her husband, who has a heart attack and wakes up to find herself back in her senior year at school. Directed by Francis Coppola (32745768)

10.55 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (1956229)

11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (2635126)

12.40am Live and Dangerous US college football and basketball (46865053)

4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (T) (5041633)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7215508)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (128039) **9.00** Hotel (67132) **10.00** Another World (46010) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (39774) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (15294) **1.00pm** Geraldo (25942) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (22942) **3.00** Jenny Jones (32768) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (17403) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (8381) **6.00** Dream Team (2671) **6.30** Married...with Children (3923) **7.00** The Simpsons (7010) **7.30** Real TV (9107) **8.00** 1997 Billboard Music Awards (68671) **10.00** Ibiza Uncovered (54478) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (54039) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (40362) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (32607) **2.00** Long Play (6299362)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
Each film costs £2.39 per viewing

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
Michael Collins (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Courage Under Fire (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 58)
D3: The Mighty Ducks (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 58)
Dead Presidents (1996)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Robin and the Seven Hoods (1964) (85720) **8.00 Kiss Me Goodbye (1982)** (55085497) **9.40 Hercules (1983)** (76903942) **11.30 Robin and the Seven Hoods (1964)** (89497) **1.30pm Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975)** (94958) **3.30 Rudy (1993)** (664213) **5.20 Hercules (1983)** (30014861) **7.05 Muppet Treasure Island (1996)** (56528671) **9.00 In the Bleak Midwinter (1995)** (66814861) **10.45 Poison Ivy II: Lily (1995)** (88823861) **12.30am Night Eyes Three (1993)** (176838) **2.10 Terminal Voyage (1994)** (720492) **3.45 Permission to Kill (1975)**

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Wake Up and Dream (1946) (89590) **8.00 The Amazing Captain Nemo (1978)** (11836) **10.00 The Man from Colorado (1948)** (32145) **12.00 In the Army Now (1994)** (538958) **1.50pm A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1945)** (18010687) **4.00 The Amazing Captain Nemo (1978)** (9855) **6.00 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995)** (79923) **8.00 In the Army Now (1994)** (48565) **10.00 Copycat (1995)** (59750841) **12.05am Black Scorpion (1995)** (377430) **1.40 Lord of Illusions (1995)** (603053) **3.40 Hourglass (1995)** (626546) **5.15 The Old Curiosity Shop (1984)** (1460343)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Fiddler on the Roof (1971) (95938294) **6.55 The Dancing Masters (1943)** (36488497) **8.00 A Fistful of Dollars (1964)** (4162039) **10.00 Tequila Sunrise (1988)** (6430749) **11.55 Cherry 2000 (1987)** (8009584) **1.35am Defenseless (1991)** (3492275) **3.20 Jolson Sings Again (1949)** (5021324) **5.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Spymaker: The Secret Life of Ian Fleming (1991) (56842213) **11.00 Telefon (1977)** (32768229) **1.00am The Outrage (1964)** (26329492) **2.45 Spymaker: The Secret Life of Ian Fleming (1991)** (24009840) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (83565) **7.30** Wrestling (15774) **8.30** Sports Centre (70355) **9.00** Racing News (94107) **9.30** Aerobics (30497) **10.00** Netball (91584) **11.00** Pool (71720) **12.00** Aerobics (38911) **12.30pm** Ice Hockey (174279) **3.00** The Footballers' Football Show (83852) **4.00** Tartan Extra (7768) **4.30** Survival of the Fittest (6552) **5.00** Wrestling (1855) **6.00** Sports Centre (7395) **6.30** Futbol Mundial (8497) **7.00** Golf: Times Mees Pierson Challenge (82229) **8.00** NHL (99565) **10.00** Sports Centre (59300) **10.30** Futbol Mundial (84720) **11.00** Pool (92213) **12.00** Sports Centre (49072) **12.30am** Sport USA (84814) **2.00** Rebel Sports (84053) **3.00** Sports Centre (86275) **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (9839774) **7.30** Sports Centre (9845381) **8.00** Racing News (5688836) **8.30** Fish TV (3891890) **9.30** World Motor Sport (3581590) **12.30pm** Golf Extra (3488942) **3.30** NHL (9769584) **5.30** Y-Max (6834720) **6.00** Rebel Sports (7753519) **7.00** Sports Centre (2282871) **7.30** Sports Action (6851497) **8.00** Golf Extra (6821958) **11.00** Cricket: New Zealand v South Africa — Live (9725749) **2.30am** Sports Centre (5135833) **3.00** Cricket: New Zealand v South Africa — Live

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling (81671132) **1.00** Fish TV (81584652) **2.00** Superbouts (67886855) **3.00** Olympic Series (52035818) **3.30** Ice Skating (63128229) **4.30** Chinese Zhuhai Great Race (88386942) **5.30** Pool (24679768) **6.30** Offshore Powerboats (28830300) **7.00** Fish TV (56832836) **8.00** Sport USA (54252768) **9.30** Windsurfing (81672861) **10.00** Sportraits (22630584) **10.30** The Golden Age of Motor Racing (68373478) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Showjumping (37942) **8.30** UEFA Cup (27861) **10.30** Weightlifting: World Championships — Live (95478) **12.30pm** Wheelies Magazine (29381) **1.00** Freestyle Skiing (73132) **1.30** Freeride Magazine (28852) **2.00** Snooker: German Open — Live (92852) **4.00** Motors Magazine (77855) **5.00** Weightlifting: World Championships (6923) **6.00** UEFA Cup (37300) **7.00** Snooker: German Open — Live (98497) **9.00** Darts (93381) **10.00** Heavyweight Explosion (62328) **11.00** Weightlifting (69861) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Bullseye (4593855) **7.35** Neighbours (4379720) **8.00** Crossroads (2524229) **8.25** EastEnders (6091294) **9.00** The Bill (6290652) **9.30** Howards' Way (8500294) **10.00** Bless This House (1678855) **10.30** The Sullivans (6298836) **11.00** Boon (6225942) **12.00** Crossroads (46450687) **12.25** Neighbours (46453774) **12.55** EastEnders (2211584) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi (4579403) **2.10** Yes, Minister (6849045) **2.50** Last of the Summer Wine (9542836) **3.30** The Bill (3062300) **4.00** Juliet Bravo (38801497) **5.05** EastEnders (1439687) **5.40** Full House (4419861) **6.25** That's Showbusiness (4935836) **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine (7774805) **7.45** Don't Wait Up (8142652) **8.20** Yes Minister (6846823) **9.00** The Bill (1092749) **9.30** Taggart the Movie (8783687) **11.05** Live at Jongleurs (4492720) **11.40** Naked Video (9040958) **12.15am** Chancer (3637343) **1.10** Miami Vice (2611985) **2.00** Shopping (5408275)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (8293010) **7.00** Coronation St (6617585) **7.30** Families (6629300) **8.00** Blind Date (6323519) **9.00** Within These Walls (4258590) **10.00** Donahue (6625584) **11.00** Hart to Hart (6605730) **12.00** Coronation St (8058942) **12.30pm** Families (2528497) **1.00** On the Buses (6616836) **1.30** Please Sir (2527768) **2.00** The Good Guys (7204958) **3.00** Donahue (7358300) **4.00** Mission: Impossible (7344107) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (3112213) **6.00** Families (7558774) **6.30** Coronation St (7476128) **7.00** The New Comedians (3113942) **7.30** UEFA Champions League (5678958) **10.00** Fitz, the US Cracker (7357671) **12.00** Close

Clint Eastwood in *A Fistful of Dollars* (Sky Movies Gold, 8.00pm)

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm Gridlock (14639297) **5.30** Hey Dad II (28631039) **6.00** Blockbusters (28821652) **6.30** Country Practice (28918132) **7.00** Get Back (68211911) **7.30** Switch On (28914316) **8.00** Rude Health (49980949) **8.30** 10 Percenters (68211986) **9.00** Fields of Fire (58922403) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84562126) **12.00** Collins & Maconie's Movie Club (63992492) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (54214508) **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree **6.30** Rosie and Jim **6.45** Winnie the Pooh **7.00** Aladdin **7.30** Tex Avery **8.00** Dinosaurs **8.30** Bonkers **9.00** Gummi Bears **9.30** Chip 'n' Dale **9.55** Mouse and Mole **10.00** Sesame St **11.00** Winnie the Pooh **11.15** Rosie and Jim **11.35** Sing Me a Story **12.00** Tots TV **12.30pm** It's Fun to Learn with Spot **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame St **2.00** Amazing Animals **2.30** Gummi Bears **3.00** Tale Spin **3.30** Goof Troop **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa **4.30** Aladdin **5.00** Gargoyles **5.30** Dinosaurs **6.00** Blossom **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Home Improvement **7.30** Wonder Years **8.00** **FILM: Ernest Goes to School** **9.30** Dave's World **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Delfy **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley **10.00** Inspector Gadget **10.30** Pizza Cats **11.00** Sweet Valley High **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **1.00** Tick **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** Tick **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** Sweet Valley High

TCC

6.00am *Happily Ever After* **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Batman **9.00** Earthworm Jim **9.30** Romuald the Reindeer **9.45** Romuald the Reindeer **10.00** Oscar's Orchestra **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Spirou **12.30pm** Sonic **1.00** Batman **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** Iznogoud **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Batman

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes **6.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Neverending Story **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas **12.00** Paddington Bear etc **12.30pm** Little Red Tractor etc **1.00** Dr Seuss **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Animal Show **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Rocko/Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** Madison **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** Blast **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** Blast **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Move on Up **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** The $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Karaoke Challenge **9.15** Winner Takes All **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Karaoke Challenge **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** The Big Valley **2.30** National Geographic Explorer **3.30** Where I Live **4.00** Jeux Sans Frontiers **5.00** Screenshop **6.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (4049107) **9.00** Tour of Duty (4052671) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (5224316) **10.45** **FILM: Slugs (1987)** (34091890) **12.35am** Leslie Nielson's Unbalanced World — Short (1338411) **12.45** Tour of Duty (1455053) **1.45** Red Shoe Diaries (5554986) **2.30** **FILM: 976-Evil (1988)** (1358614) **4.20** Leslie Nielson's Unbalanced World — Short (85094508) **4.30** Family Dog (6381463) **5.00** Starsky and Hutch (4666985)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (7346) **7.30** Roseanne (5923) **8.00** Ellen (2774) **8.30** Cybill (8381) **9.00** Cheers (79213) **9.30** Taxi (25519) **10.00** Frasier (59382) **10.30** Kenny Everett (88590) **11.00** Gayle's World (54958) **11.30** Ellen (83213) **12.00** Roseanne (47614) **12.30am** Nightstand (94427) **1.00** Soap (64053) **1.30** Taxi (24630) **2.00** Gayle's World (49817) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (28324) **3.00** Frasier (84817) **3.30** Kenny Everett (42904)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (3171126) **9.00** **FILM: Falling Fire (1996)** (3174213) **11.00** Friday the 13th (6478671) **12.00** Sightings (4336940) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (9754633) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3568343) **2.00** Dark Shadows (7688514) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (7667121) **3.00** Friday the 13th (9466053) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting **9.30** Garden Club **10.00** Garden Party **10.30** New Yankee Workshop **11.00** Andy's Angling Adventures **11.30** Hometime **12.00** The Diceman **12.30pm** This Old House **1.00** Yan Can Cook **1.30** The Restoration Game **2.00** The Furniture Guys **2.30** Antiques Trail **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** Home Again

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Diceman (3056749) **4.30** Roadshow (3141861) **5.00** Ancient Warriors (8376519) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (3069213) **6.00** Crawling Kingdom (9510671) **7.00** Mysterious Universe (8283855) **7.30** Disaster (3142590) **8.00** Mysterious Universe (8365403) **8.30** Super Natural (8271010) **9.00** Real X Files (4138045) **10.00** Lost Murders (6382687) **10.30** Outbreak (6295107) **11.00** Fastest Car on Earth (8211749) **12.00** The Dicemen (7441695) **12.30am** Roadshow (7052275) **1.00** Disaster (7831102) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (9044879)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Living Sands of the Namib (8001861) **8.00** Jewelled Wings (8914381) **9.00** Great Lakes, Fragile Seas (8007045) **10.00** Kalahari (8000132) **11.00** South Georgia (5251652) **12.00** Ice Tombs of Siberia (4497508) **12.30am** Herculaneum

TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm Going Places **1.00** Dominikas Planet **1.30** Beyond Borders **2.00** Snow Safari **2.30** No Truckin' Holiday **3.00** Reel World **3.30** Oceania **4.00** Australian Gourmet **4.30** Road to the Islands **5.00** Ridge Riders **5.30** Railway Adventures **6.00** Stepping the World **6.30** On Tour **7.00** Splendours of the World **8.00** North of Naples, South of Rome **8.30** Portrait of Ireland **9.00** Holiday International **10.00** No Truckin' Holiday **10.30** A Fork in the Road **11.00** Cities of the World **11.30** Reel World

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Vimy, Birth of a Nation (4579890) **5.00** Lost Civilisations, Greece (2261942) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (7753519) **7.00** Biography: Marilyn Monroe — an Intimate Portrait (2743107) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** The Restaurant Show **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Twelve Chefs of Christmas **2.00** Ross's Foreign Assignment **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Alive and Cooking **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** Aldo's Italian Job **4.30** Chef for a Day **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Why Me? **9.30** The Gordon Elliott Show **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.55** Brookside **12.25pm** Jimmy's **12.55** Cheap Chic **1.25** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.05** Hart to Hart **3.00** Live at Three **4.05** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Cheap Chic **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00** **FILM: Gentlemen Prefer Blondes** **11.00** Sex Life Down Under

ZEE TV

6.30am Nagar Pane Roop Nagar **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Ghoomta Aaina **8.00** Business **8.30** Raahat **9.00** Manasi **9.30** Out and About **10.00** Tara **11.00** Low Cal **11.30** Hum Aap Ke Hain Woh **12.00** Daraar **12.30** Raahat **1.00** FILM **4.00** Public Demand **5.00** Aisa Bhi Hota Hai **5.30** Teen Do Paanch **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** Hits **7.00** Liberty **7.30** Banegi Apni Baat **8.00** News **8.30** Dastaan **9.00** Pal Do Pal **10.00** Filmi Baatein **10.30** Top 10 **11.00** Purush Kshetra

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Pakistan complete humiliation of West Indies

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10 1997

Oxford suffer familiar case of the blues with another defeat at Twickenham

Cambridge enjoy experience

OXFORD UNIVERSITY 17

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 29

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THREE days after the departure from Twickenham of the ultimate professionals, New Zealand, the ultimate amateurs from Oxford and Cambridge universities pulled 70,000 to the same venue yesterday to witness Cambridge sustain their stranglehold on the Bowring Bowl. The pleasure of victory in the 116th game in the series, moreover, was embellished by their ability to beat Oxford in the area where they were strongest — the pack.

The first Cambridge try — and their last — came through the mauling power of their forwards and sent a message to the Dark Blues that was quite intentional. "We have only had this pack out once before, against Australian Capital Territory, but we knew we could do it that way," Tony Rodgers, the coach, said. "So this was the best win of the last four, because of the way we did it."

The last Cambridge defeat was in 1993, a run that threatens the record of five successive wins achieved by their predecessors of 1972-76 and 1980-84. It was sufficient for Steve Hill, the Oxford director of rugby, to suggest that his organisation needs to look far more closely at recruitment so that it can introduce the level of sustained experience from which Cambridge have benefited — in no one more than Richard Bramley, the lock, who was making his fifth appearance in the University match.

Indeed, Bramley scored the first try of the match, when his colleagues joined forces to wedge him over from a lineout, but Cambridge's ability to vary the play made them deserving victors in a game that won high marks for intent, if not for execution. For that reason, Brian Campsall, the referee, might have exercised a lighter touch than he did, doling out nearly 40 penalty awards in aggregate and cutting short the rucks when he might have played advantage a little longer.

On the other hand, Oxford might have thought that they were deserving of a penalty try during a spell of pressure on the Cambridge line midway through the second half. Three times in succession, the Light Blues offended within ten metres, Oxford's reward finally arriving through Spicer, who dived from a wheeling scrum and reduced the Cambridge advantage to 19-10. Yet at no time did Oxford threaten a revival of All Black proportions, even though their domination of the lineout gave them an ideal platform.

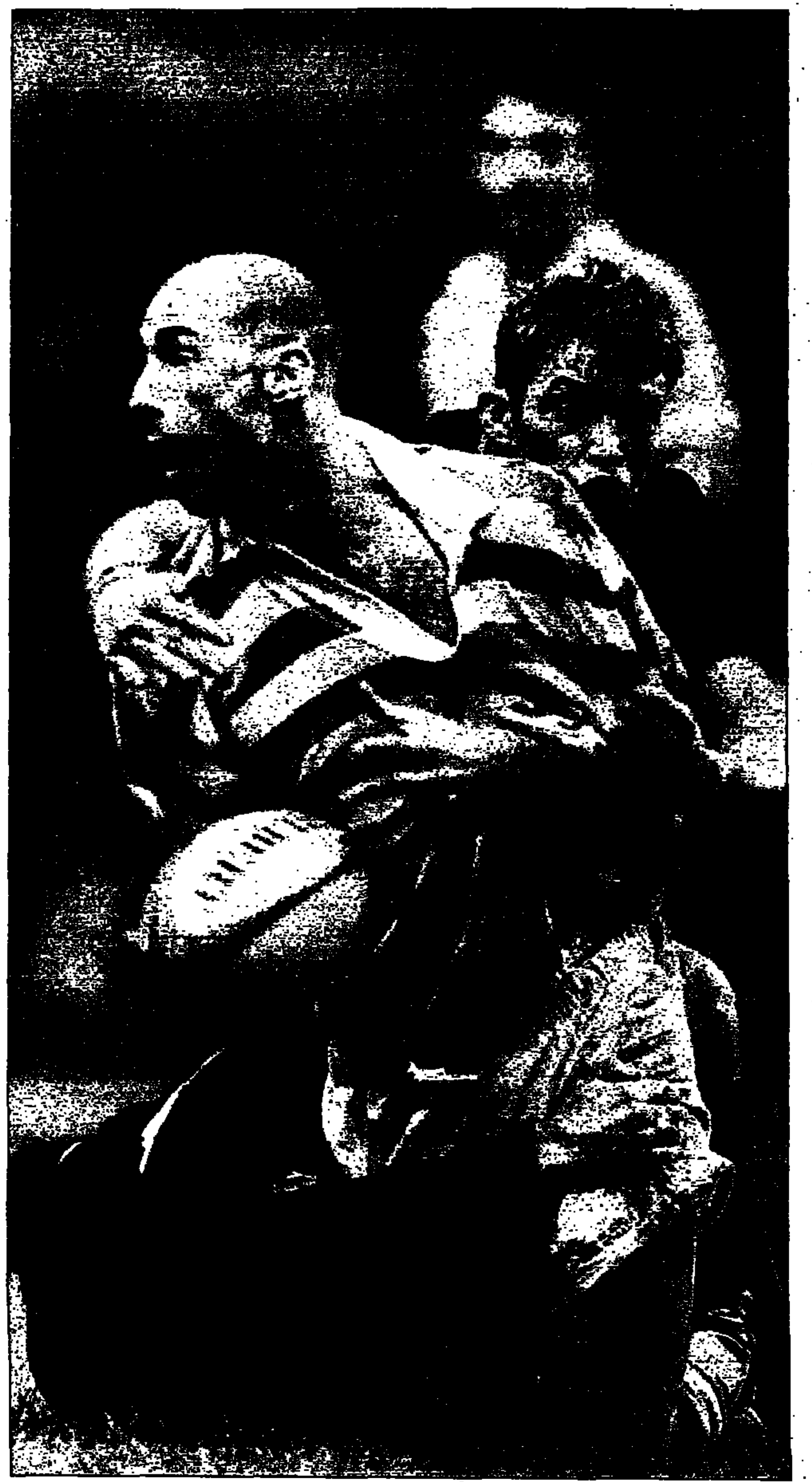
Defence became the keynote of the Cambridge game before the interval, despite their 14-0 lead. If Bramley's try was effective in its simplicity, Walne's was the reward for enterprise and speed of thought: Elliott and Hill danced down the left, Cambridge moved back right and, though Walne's initial thrust was held, Oxford fell offside and Bramley's swift tap gave Walne his chance to hit the line at pace.

Oxford were nearly undone again by Denney and Robinson, supported by Surridge's penetration on the left, but they regrouped, put behind them the disappointment of two missed penalty attempts by Kelaher and spent most of the second quarter camped in or around the Cambridge 22. Their only return, however, was a simple 15-metre kick by Kelaher, which speaks volumes for the stern defence placed in their way.

Cambridge confidence was such that they spurned a kickable penalty just after the interval in favour of an attacking lineout, from which they derived scant profit. At last, however, they controlled the ball in the tackle, Ashforth and Robinson worked the blind side and Denney produced a splendid fluid run to score his side's third try.

Yet Cambridge could not break free: Spicer's try cut the deficit and Oxford sensed a capacity to attack around the flanks rather than through the middle. In doing so from his own 22, though, Maher was caught and penalised; once more, Cambridge opted for the attacking lineout, Craig took the throw and the forwards mauled 20 metres before Surridge, the enthusiastic New Zealander, added his weight and emerged triumphant over the line.

There was still time for Hogan to execute a perfect looped move around Jensen and send Booth cutting past Surridge for Oxford's second try, but the Cambridge full back riposted with his only penalty attempt. That Oxford recognised a lost cause was suggested by the plethora of late replacements — eventually matched by Cambridge — which, depending on your point of view, either devalues a Blue or rewards those who have persevered all term and have only just fallen short.



Surridge, the Cambridge full back, cannot escape Orsler's grip during the University match at Twickenham yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

DETAILS FROM TWICKENHAM

SCORERS: Oxford University: Tries: Spicer (57min), Booth (67). Conversions: Kelaher 2. Penalty goal: Kelaher (34). Cambridge University: Tries: Bramley (6), Walne (19), Denney (50), Surridge (62). Conversions: Surridge 3. Penalty goal: Surridge (75).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Oxford University first): 0-7, 0-14, 3-14 (half-time), 3-19, 10-19, 10-26, 17-26, 17-29.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: R Maher (St Ignatius, Sydney and University, captain); N Booth (Lytham St Anne's HS and Worcester), N Larsen (Hilton Coll, Durban and Lincoln), B Rudge (St Edward's, Liverpool and Keble), R Pollock (Diocesan Coll, Cape Town and Keble; rep: G Lewis, Cheadle Hulme and St Anne's, 32min); T Jensen (St Edmund's, Canberra and St Anne's), N Hogan (Terenure Coll, Dublin and Merton); R Lehner (Jesuit HS, Sacramento and St Anne's; rep: J Sharples, Sydney C of E GS and St Edmund Hall, 79), M Collard (King's, Parramatta and St Anne's), A Reuben (Solihull and University), T Eisenhauer (St Ignatius, Sydney and St Anne's), A Roberts (Ampleforth and New College; rep: S van Reenen, Paul Roos Gymnasium, Stellenbosch and St Anne's, 40), M Orsler (King's, Canterbury and Christ Church), D Kelaher (St Joseph's, Sydney and St Cross; rep: C Lavin, King Edward's, Lytham and St Edmund Hall, 83), K Spicer (Clongowes Wood, Dublin and St Anne's).

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: P Surridge (St Kentigern, Auckland and Hughes Hall; rep, A Goldsmith, Oundle and Homerton, 81); N Walne (Caerleon CS and St Catharine's), M Robinson (Opunake HS, New Zealand and Hughes Hall), M Denney (Bedford Modern and St Edmund's), N Hill (St Ignatius, Sydney and St Edmund's; rep: G Williams, Hinchingbrooke and Homerton, 84); R Ashforth (Bradford GS and Peterhouse), R Elliott (Durham and St Edmund's); G Reynolds (Cheshunt and Hughes Hall), T Murphy (St Joseph's, Brisbane and St Edmund's, captain), M Foulds (Christ's, Canterbury and Sidney Sussex), R Bramley (QEGS, Wakefield and St Edmund's), A Craig (Tauranga Boys, New Zealand and Hughes Hall), M Hyde (St Ignatius, Sydney and St Edmund's), H Whitford (The Leys and Homerton), J Cocks (Newington, Sydney and St Edmund's).

Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire).

Feel-good factor continues with gripping show

JOHN HOPKINS

At Twickenham

Dylan Thomas, not normally the sort of Welshman to frequent Twickenham, would have been lugubriously at home here, where there was much drinking in the Saloon of the Dark Soul before matters got under way. It was not just lachrymose Celts who feared that this match would have about as much relevance to the magnificence of last Saturday's rugby feast as the crumbs that fall from a rich man's table at a time of celebration.

Wherever one looked at Twickenham in the noonday hour, England's thrilling draw with New Zealand and its after-effects seemed unavoidable. It was a surprise then — and a welcome one — to discover a snap and crackle about this match as it fizzed from end to end in a style that owed its heritage to the New Zealanders and the handling game of the southern hemisphere.

Unusual angles of running were attempted. Players remained on their feet at all costs. Almost always the ball was kept in the hand and passed quickly, first this way and then that as the carrier probed and darted. It was helter-skelter, committed and played at pace, even if the skill levels and the overall speed were to England and New Zealand as Martin Johnson is to David Rees.

At odd moments it was even Saturday all over again. When Cambridge dropped a pass early on and Oxford pounced on it, there was Dallaglio, alias Hogan, hoofing it through again. And when a thick-necked front-row forward picked up the ball and ran, the fact that it was Gavin Reynolds did not matter.

There was even a momentary demonstration of backs playing as forwards. Paul Surridge burrowed into a maul on Oxford's line, found the ball and touched it down. Dirtying one's hands in such grubby places is not often where full backs are to be found. Was this the ultimate example of what John Hart, the All Blacks coach, has preached for years — backs and forwards combining, the job being done by whichever is available?

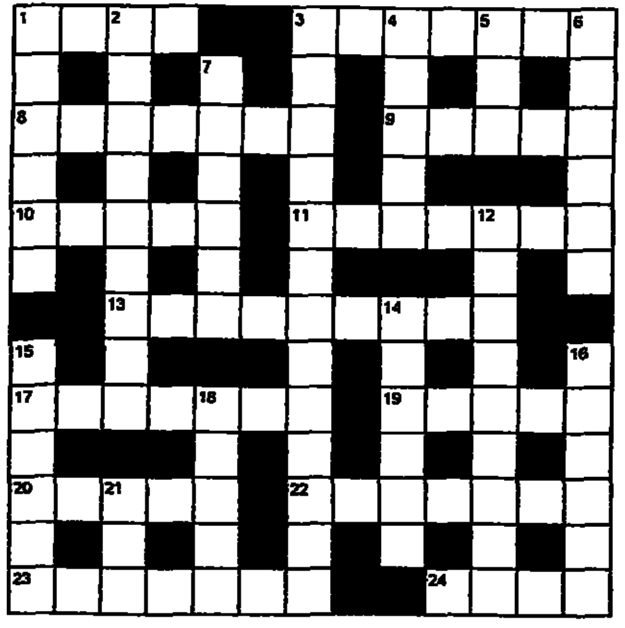
Harold Wilson used to maintain that England's loss to West Germany in the World Cup cost Labour the 1970 general election. Saturday's performance by England created a feel-good factor that shows no sign of dying out yet.

"It was not difficult to play this game after what happened last Saturday," Richie Maher, the Oxford captain, said. "I was here. It was fantastic to be here. It inspired us. From my point of view, it was great to see England play an expansive game. At last they played rugby as it should be played, using the width of the field, moving the ball, running with it."

One of the odd statistics of this old and distinguished British sporting ritual was that both captains were Australian and Tom Murphy, euphoric after Cambridge's victory, said much the same thing as his countryman. "I took a lot of heart from England's performance last Saturday," Murphy said. "It was rewarding to see England do it so well. They were magnificent. And today I was as proud of the manner in which we won the game as the fact that we won it."

No one is suggesting that this match contained so many shafts of brilliance that it should have been filmed and used for ever more as a coaching tool. But the first Varsity match to be played with referees as touch judges — and another match at Twickenham to be graced by the presence of a streaker who was roundly applauded — was not half as bad in actuality as it had seemed in prospect.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1273

ACROSS
1 Complete; with no room (4)
3 Altar hanging (7)
8 Scandal (7)
9 Diamond weight measure (5)
10 Heathen (5)
11 Hairy (7)
13 Unqualified, utter (3-3-3)
17 Interrupt, annoy (7)
19 (Fencing) thrust forward (5)
20 V-shaped nick (5)
22 Multi-volume book: a PSV (7)
23 Multiplied by self: bribed (7)
24 Parts of body; sounds like *exploit* (4)

DOWN
1 Limp: sort of diskette (6)
2 Fond of suing (9)
3 Family (5,3,5)
4 An Academy Award (5)
5 Rocky hill (3)
6 Portable bed: rubbish (6)
7 Attractive horseshoe (6)
12 Impossible to defend (9)
14 Rectangular (6)
15 Handsome youth (*Gk. myth*) (6)
16 One-room flat (6)
18 To escort: his house fell (*Poe*) (5)
21 Sort of cross: may sound like 5 (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1272

ACROSS: 3 Touching 7 Rapine 8 Tracer 9 Smoker 10 Cocoon 11 Free 13 Crécy 15 Nero 17 Tedder 18 Chance 19 Ravine 20 Second 21 Steerage

DOWN: 1 Hammer 2 Sickle 3 Terrier 4 Cursory 5 Inchoate 6 Geronimo 11 Features 12 Eau de vie 13 Cleaner 14 Concise 15 Nuance 16 Racine

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Maktoums threaten British exodus

By Richard Evans, racing correspondent

THE MAKTOUM brothers, the most powerful racing family in the world, signalled their intention last night to pull out of British racing, unless there is a dramatic change in the sport's finances. If the Maktoums carry out their threat, the withdrawal would have far-reaching consequences for British racing and the bloodstock industry.

Racing leaders heard the warning during a speech written by Sheikh Mohammed, the driving force behind the Dubai-based family's racing interests, and delivered to the Gimcrack dinner in York. In the 20 years since Sheikh Mohammed enjoyed his first winner he and his brothers — Maktoum al-Maktoum, Hamdan al-Maktoum and Ahmed al-Maktoum — have invested hundreds of millions of pounds in horses, studs and a substantial workforce.

In his speech, Sheikh Mohammed said that he would be failing in his duty as a racing man if he failed to point out that the Government exacts more money from racing than is justifiable or sustainable in the long term. "In crude terms, from the 9p deduction on bets in this country, the Government takes six times the amount that is returned to racing. They have 6.75 pence, the levy receives 1.2 pence and the rest disappears in the general direction of the bookmakers' ever-open pockets."

He also highlighted statistics giving the percentage of keep and training fees recoverable through prize-money in 40 countries worldwide. "Britain ranks 35th ... a desperate plight for a nation with the finest racing in the world.

"For ten years, I have kept my own counsel and withstood all temptations to enter the debate surrounding racing's financial plight but the time for silence has passed. We cannot justify continuing at current levels of investment for much longer and are actively studying whether other parts of the world might not provide better opportunities.

"All I ask is that the astounding gulf between outlay and return is narrowed ... not for my benefit but for everybody's benefit in all corners of the industry. I am not holding a gun to anyone's head, but nor am I making an empty threat. Please be in no doubt that, if we see no light at the end of the tunnel, we will be left with little choice but to make an exit."

Sheikh's warning, page 43

Time for cricket to club together

Rachael Heyhoe Flint marches into bat against MCC men behaving badly

Today the MCC committee meets at Lord's and may take the first giant step for cricketing womankind by agreeing a new policy on an issue that has caused decades of angst — namely the question of women being allowed to apply for membership of Marylebone Cricket Club.

When I played cricket I was impatient and impetuous as England's No 3 bat, but as far as the MCC v Women Members campaign is concerned, I have been very patient. It was seven years ago that I first wrote under plain cover (signing my letter R Flint) for an application form for MCC membership.

The then president of MCC, Lord Griffiths, was shocked to receive an application from a woman — the first in the MCC's 204-year history. To his credit, he said that the club would have to address the matter, and a formal resolution at the May 1991 annual meeting was soundly defeated, although only 7,000 of the 17,500 members voted.

Since that "underwhelming" verdict, I have been incredibly patient, because I knew that a private club (albeit with a public function) is perfectly entitled to operate as it wishes — but I was not going to give up.

Grandma — your MCC application's been accepted... you remember it
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Barry Hasband

I have been supporting this campaign not for my own personal sake but for the thousands of women who love and support cricket who would like to be members of the greatest cricket club in the world; women who would like to be part of its success.

We don't want any favours — we will apply and then wait the 18 or 20 years for our membership to come forth. I might not live to see that day, but at least I will have bowled the opening googly.

Women spectators have been allowed into the pavilion for three England women's matches in the past four years and they have certainly been better behaved than the Four XXXX brigade in the Tavern stand!

No woman would go to the trouble or expense of seeking to become a member of MCC unless she genuinely wanted to join.

Women in cricket are now recognised and appreciated throughout the world. The other MCC (Melbourne) now allows women members in the pavilion at the MCG, and the England Women's Cricket Association are shortly to be merged with the England and Wales Cricket Board at Lord's. The England men's team sponsor, Vodafone, has also become the main sponsor of the women's team.

This is MCC's great chance. Its lottery bid for £4.5 million was turned down by the Sports Council because the club did not have women members — but I don't want that to be a reason for change. We campaigners want it for genuine heartfelt reasons that the time has come to modernise, and by doing so I'm sure MCC will gain enormous praise from the world in general.

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